

HAYDUKE LIVES!
We Found Doug Peacock

THE BIRDS 40,000 Cranes
Invade Arizona

REEL HISTORY
Canyon Film Turns 100

ARIZONA

HIGHWAYS

ESCAPE • EXPLORE • EXPERIENCE

JANUARY 2012

WEEKEND

Adventures & Road Trips

featuring

- › ROCK WALLS
- › WHITEWATER
- › HORSES
- › HOT-AIR BALLOONS
- › FORBIDDEN CANYONS
- › AND MORE!

Watson Lake, Prescott

+

Another
Wonderful
Cowboy Story
by Novelist
J.P.S. Brown

25 BEST FESTIVALS
OF 2012

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LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE?

Look no further. Our fifth annual guide to the state's best weekend adventures and road trips offers something for everyone, including an introduction to rock-climbing in Prescott, a rare excursion into a forbidden canyon on the Hopi Indian Reservation, and a three-hour horseback ride through some of the most beautiful countryside in Arizona.
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COMING IN FOR A LANDING

Every January, bird-watchers, random travelers and *Arizona Highways* photographers gather in Sulphur Springs Valley for the daily liftoffs and landings of sandhill cranes. It's one of the great spectacles in Mother Nature. How else would you describe 40,000 cranes with 6-foot wingspans descending on the marshes of Southeastern Arizona?

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COLT OF LIGHTNING

A true story about a champion racehorse named Shorty, an Eastern Arizona ranch known as High Lonesome, and a 14-year-old boy who learned to fly on a summer day in 1944.

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HAYDUKE LIVES ON

It's been almost 40 years since *The Monkey Wrench Gang* hit bookstores, but the man who inspired Edward Abbey's protagonist is still working out the legacies of being Hayduke. He's also trying to save what's left of the wilderness.

BY KATHY MONTGOMERY

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LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION.

Their home on the South Rim is on the National Register of Historic Places, their names are synonymous with the Grand Canyon, and 100 years ago this month, the Kolb Brothers completed an epic journey down the Colorado River, retracing the route of John Wesley Powell. Like Powell, they experienced an incredible adventure. Unlike Powell, they took a 50-pound, hand-cranked motion-picture camera along for the ride.

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Ironwood Forest: Ragged mountains and some of the oldest trees in Arizona are highlights along this scenic route just north of Tucson.
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WHERE IS THIS?



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www.arizonahighways.wordpress.com

Check out our blog for daily posts on just about anything having to do with travel in Arizona, including Q&As with writers and photographers, special events, bonus photos, sneak peeks at upcoming issues and more.



www.facebook.com/azhighways

Join our Facebook community to share your photographs, chat with other fans, enter trivia contests and receive up-to-the-minute information about what's going on behind the scenes at *Arizona Highways*.

▶ A peaceful, early morning mule ride along Bright Angel Trail in the Grand Canyon. | TOM BROWNOLD

FRONT COVER Rubicon Outdoors, an adventure travel company in Prescott, offers thrill-seekers a chance to scale the Granite Dells at Watson Lake. | KERRICK JAMES

BACK COVER There's nothing quite like Arizona's Sonoran Desert, especially when the skies turn dark and moody as a monsoon storm rolls in along the Florence-Kelvin Highway. | GEORGE STOCKING

Adventure Capital

It was like that scene in the opening credits of *Bonanza*. The one where Hoss, Ben, Little Joe and Adam are riding their horses, side by side, across a grassy meadow surrounded by the spectacular landscape of the Sierra Nevada. But instead of the Cartwrights, the riders were editors from *Arizona Highways*: Kelly Kramer, Kat Ritchie, Jeff Kida and me. And instead of snow-peaked mountains as a backdrop, the setting was the east side of the Santa Rita Mountains. Like the Cartwrights, we were on the job.

The assignment was to gather notes, interviews and photographs for the final piece of this month's cover story, which features several adventures from around the state. The sections on rock-climbing, hot-air ballooning, river-rafting, canyoneering ... had already been done. All that was left was horseback-riding through the honey-yellow grasslands of Sonoita.

If you've never been, the terrain down there is unlike anywhere else in the state, and it's as beautiful as anywhere else in the world. There are mountain ranges in all four directions, and in between are the rolling hills that attracted the production crew of *Oklahoma!*, which was filmed in the area in the 1950s — people in the Sooner State are still miffed about that. The scenery is breathtaking, and it's even better from the back of a horse. Especially if that horse is one of Ron Izzo's.

Ron and his wife, Marge, are the owners of Arizona Horseback Experience, an outfitter that'll take just about any motley crew out for a ride, including ours. Not that we were especially difficult, but I'm sure Ron rolled his eyes when Kelly dropped her 64-ounce bottle of water within the first 5 minutes of the ride. And he surely had to wonder when Kat yelled out, "Ron, my horse stopped." She said it as if the old gelding had run out of gas, and she needed Ron to give her a refill. Maybe you had to be there, but it made me smile, and I'm glad Jeff was on hand to capture the moment with his Nikon D700. He took a lot of photos that day, one of which you'll see on the opening spread of our story. The rest will be posted on our Facebook page.

ARIZONA HIGHWAYS TELEVISION



ARIZONA HIGHWAYS TV

If you like what you see in this magazine every month, check out *Arizona Highways Television*, an Emmy Award-winning program hosted by former news anchor Robin Sewell. For broadcast times, visit our website, www.arizonahighways.com, and click the *Arizona Highways Television* link on our home page.



KRISTIN HAYWARD, KBH PHOTOGRAPHY

As you flip through the images, I think you'll be inspired to hop in the saddle and explore Southern Arizona. If not, we have plenty of other adventures to choose from, none of which involves blowing up dams or burning down billboards.

Obviously, we don't endorse that kind of thing, but George Washington Hayduke made a habit of it. Hayduke, as you may recall, was the protagonist/hero in Edward Abbey's classic novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang*. The book was fictional, but Hayduke — a beer-guzzling, former Green Beret medic — was based on a real person: Doug Peacock of Tucson.

The book made Peacock an instant celebrity, but he didn't find it flattering. According to Peacock, Hayduke was a "one-dimensional dolt." The real-life character is anything but. Among other things, Peacock has spent decades observing grizzly bears, he's published four books, filmed an award-winning documentary and landed a Guggenheim Fellowship.

In *Hayduke Lives on*, writer Kathy Montgomery touches on some of those things, as well as Peacock's relationship with Abbey. It was a relationship that suffered because of the book, but survived nonetheless and ultimately lasted 20 years. In fact, they were such good friends that Peacock was with Abbey when the author died, and along with a few friends, they buried Abbey in the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

Imagine that adventure. And now imagine what it must have been like 100 years ago, when Ellsworth and Emery Kolb set out in a couple of small wooden boats to make a movie about the inner reaches of the Grand Canyon.

The goal of the two brothers, who had already made names for themselves as portrait photographers on the South Rim, was to retrace John Wesley Powell's 1,100-mile-long expedition along the Green and Colorado rivers. Not to cross it off their bucket lists, but to make a documentary film about the natural wonder. As you'll see in *Lights. Camera. Action.* by Kelly Kramer, it was an incredible adventure, one that culminated on January 13, 1912 — 100 years ago this month.

The anniversary of their adventure is timely, but that's not the reason for this month's cover story. We did it because Arizona is the adventure capital of America, and because we secretly wanted to re-create a scene from *Bonanza*. The Kolb story was just a nice coincidence.

ROBERT STIEVE, editor

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PRODUCED IN THE USA

KERRICK JAMES

Nothing will stop photographer Kerrick James from getting the perfect shot — not even scaling rocks, paddle-boating or canoeing. In fact, James did those things and more to capture this month's cover photo. "This turned out to be one of those dreamy shoots," James says. "The location — Prescott's Watson Lake — was perfect, and the lighting was fantastic." James has worked in the travel photography industry for more than 20 years, and his work has appeared in *National Geographic Adventure*, *Elle Décor* and *Alaska Airlines* magazine.



BRAD HOLLAND

Illustrator and artist Brad Holland has been turning heads with his work since his childhood in the backwoods of northern Ohio. This month, he illustrates *Colt of Lightning* (page 40), J.P.S. Brown's essay about a horse named Shorty. Although Holland wasn't there to watch Shorty race, his illustration is a manifestation of the vision he gathered from Brown's words. "The idea is really to marry the feeling of the article to the picture," Holland says. His unique style has led to a long list of published works in magazines such as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and *Vanity Fair*.



JOEL GRIMES

J.P.S. BROWN

Award-winning author J.P.S. Brown has penned countless stories about cowboys and the Wild West. This month, he shares the story of Shorty (*Colt of Lightning*, page 40), a dutiful, kind-hearted colt that broke racing records across the Southwest. A rancher by birth, Brown pursued a short journalism career after college at Notre Dame, but quickly found his way back to the ranching life. He learned to rearrange his schedule to incorporate a minimum of two hours or 1,000 words of writing into a ranching day. If work started at 4 a.m., he was out of bed by 2 a.m., "to do words." Brown, now in his 80s, has authored more than 10 cowboy novels, numerous essays, and several stories for *Arizona Highways*. "I'm busier now than I've ever been in my entire life," he says.

— Interviewed by Maggie Pingolt



November 2011

ALL REVVED UP

I received my November 2011 issue this week and haven't put it down. Your articles and photos of the past [Retro AZ] were excellent — another reason you have a great state. I remember the Mustang drive-in in Chandler, and taking my '65 Mustang there in the early '70s. I plan to move back to your beautiful state in the near future. Keep up the great work.

TOM CURTIS, CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

MOVIE CRITICS

A couple things to say about the November 2011 cover, which features the Apache Drive-In. First, there will

be quite a few drained batteries if those folks leave their lights on while watching the movie. Next, the window speakers haven't been removed from their stands between the cars; thus, they can't hear old Elvis sing. And finally, a nice touch might have been raising the movie picture a bit to line up the mountains on the screen with the mountains on the horizon. Just some thoughts.

MARTY & LYNN COTE, THATCHER, ARIZONA



September 2011

NOT SO ROSIE

I'm sure you know by now that Rosie's Den burned to the ground. We are so sorry for the loss of such a great place. Nevertheless, we really enjoyed the story you printed in the September 2011 issue. We live not far from Rosie's, just outside of Kingman. Thanks for your attention.

DOROTHY ST. CLAIR, GOLDEN VALLEY, ARIZONA

GRAM FINALE

When I was about 3 years old, I'd sit at my grandmother's house and look at this magazine called *Arizona Highways*. I can't remember what year the magazines were published, but I do know it was about 1965 or 1966 when I first started looking at them. She'd tell me about the family trip they took to the Grand Canyon, Tombstone, and all the other places they went to in Arizona. I remember the beautiful pictures in the magazines like it was yesterday. I told my Gram, "Someday, I'm going to go there." And she said, "Yes you will." Because of my Gram and your maga-

zine, I'm finally going to see Arizona for real. I can't wait. I know she's somewhere saying, "I told you that you'd get there."

MIKE HURLEY, PETERSBURG PENNSYLVANIA



August 2011

A WHOLE NEW DEFINITION

The cover of the August 2011 magazine elicited an appreciative WOW! The bold, vivid and engaging colors of the crisp, sharp and high-resolution photo were outstanding. As I gleaned through the magazine, there was a feast of more high-caliber photos that jumped off the pages. It reminded me of today's high-definition video and photography. I've been a longtime, appreciative subscriber. The August 2011 issue raises the bar for excellence.

WILLIAM WELCH III, SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

DISTANCE LEARNING

I wanted to point out an error on your July 2011 *Scenic Drive* (Forest Road 618). The actual distance you need to travel on State Route 260 from Interstate 17 is 8 miles, not 6. The 6-mile mark will put you at the entrance to a waste transfer station. And while I'm sure it's a top-notch waste transfer station, it doesn't compare to FR 618. Just wanted to point that out.

MIKE EAUCLAIRE, PHOENIX

CORRECTION: In our October 2011 story on Saddlerock Ranch in Sedona, the contact information should have read: 818-530-6788 or www.gotdestinations.com.

contact us

If you have thoughts or comments about anything in *Arizona Highways*, we'd love to hear from you. We can be reached at editor@arizona-highways.com, or by mail at 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. For more information, visit www.arizonahighways.com.



MARK LIPCZYNSKI

In the Stillness

On a quiet stretch of State Route 260 near Payson, a scraggly piece of brush emerges from a pool of still water at sunset — its wild form, reflected in the calm water, created what photographer Mark Lipczynski describes as "an image reminiscent of a snowflake." Information: Payson Ranger District, 928-474-7900 or www.fs.usda.gov/tonto

The Story of Their Lives

Jinx and Jayne Pyle like to tell stories. True stories about their families’ lives along the Mogollon Rim. It’s fascinating material that includes tales of black bears, mountain lions and range wars. They’re not just storytellers, though. The Pyles are also authors, publishers and performers.

By NORA BURBA TRULSSON

SETTLE DOWN INTO ONE of Jinx and Jayne Peace Pyle’s overstuffed leather easy chairs with a glass of lemonade and be prepared to listen. The two of them will mesmerize you for hours with tales of cowboys,

PAYSON ranchers and pioneers. The tales are their stories — the stories of their families’ lives along the Mogollon Rim and in the Tonto Basin of Central Arizona.

There’s the one about Floyd Pyle, Jinx’s cowboy grandfather, who roped a live mountain lion and a bear in the 1920s for Western author Zane Grey to use in his movies. Then there’s the saga of Jayne’s great-grandparents, Will and Ellen Neal, who drove a wagon from Texas through a New Mexico range war to Gisela, Arizona, arriving in 1891 to start a new life of ranching and farming along Tonto Creek.

The Pyles’ stories aren’t just exercises in chewing the fat. The husband and wife are keepers of regional history, serving as official Town of Payson historians. They were named Arizona Culturekeepers in 2005, an honor bestowed by the Arizona Historical Society and Sharlot Hall Museum on those who make a positive impact on the state’s history and culture. They’re also authors — with more than a dozen local history books between them — as well as publishers and performers.

Eugene “Jinx” Pyle was born in 1944 to a family whose ancestry includes David Harer, who, in 1874, became the first white person to build a house in the Tonto Basin, and Elwood Pyle, who led his family to Star Valley in 1890 to farm and ranch.

“I was a premature baby,” explains Jinx, a tall, lanky man whose character was formed in the saddle. “The nurses called me ‘the little jinx,’ and the nickname stuck.”

Jinx grew up learning to ride and rope on his parents’, grandparents’ and great-grandparents’ ranches, and helped his father with his work as the foreman of the R Bar C Boy Scout ranch at Christopher

Creek. “We’d saddle up horses and ride to mend fences, move cattle, whatever needed to be done.” During the week, he rode the bus into Payson to attend school.

Like his grandfather and father, Jinx learned to hunt mountain lions. “Back then, livestock was a huge part of Arizona’s

industry,” Jinx explains. “A mountain lion could kill a calf a week if it got on your cattle allotment. They were considered predatory animals. The government paid a \$75 bounty for lions, which was good money during the Depression and war years.”

Back in the day, Jinx’s grandfather

became legendary at hunting not only mountain lions, but bears, too, and caught the attention of author and filmmaker Grey, himself an avid outdoorsman. Grey tapped Floyd Pyle to be an assistant hunting guide and procurer of live feline and ursine extras for films.

During long rides and in the evenings when ranch chores were done, everyone told stories, sagas of local history that ranged from family anecdotes to an oral history of the Pleasant Valley War. For entertainment, Jinx went into town for dances and learned to play the guitar, performing at Kohls Ranch and honky-tonks as a youth.

JAYNE WAS BORN IN GLOBE IN 1949 (“There wasn’t a doctor in Payson at the time”) and raised on the family ranch in Gisela, the fifth generation to work the land there. “My first memory is of being in front of my mother on a saddle,” she says. With her sister, she milked cows, fed the animals, worked in the garden and watered fruit trees. During the school year, her family shifted to a townhouse in Payson so the children could attend classes.

On the ranch, it was all about family. “We didn’t have electricity or phones until 1970,” Jayne says. “So entertainment for us was to get together with cousins and aunts and uncles and grandparents to talk and sing. A lot of my uncles played guitars and fiddles. Music and stories were our culture.”

On separate but similar trajectories, Jinx’s and Jayne’s ranch lives ended about the same time, dwindled by a combination of economics, Forest Service edicts and environmental issues.

Jinx and his father sold the family ranch a few years before the 1990 Dude Fire obliterated the area, then ranched in Oregon from 1987 to 1997. After his father passed, Jinx and his mother ranched in New Mexico before moving back to Payson.

Jayne married, had a son, worked as an editor for the *Payson Roundup*, then went back to school at Arizona State University to become a teacher. By 1980, she realized she was a witness to the evolution of an entire town and wrote her first book, *History of Gisela, Arizona*, detailing the lives of all the families — including her own — that founded the town and, inadvertently,

chronicling the demise of ranch culture. “The Forest Service took our cattle permits,” she says. “We sold our cattle in 1991, and just sold our last land in 2011.” She moved to Payson in 2001.

Though Jayne and Jinx had known each other all their lives, they didn’t reconnect until 2002, when Jinx wrote a draft of his first book, a novel called *Blue Fox*. He approached Jayne, who’d written several more history-themed books, about editing his manuscript. The collaboration worked on numerous levels. They opted to start a company, Git A Rope Publishing, to publish not only their works, but books by others, and operated Git A Rope Trading Co. on Payson’s Main Street for several years, offering ranch and cowboy antiques, memorabilia, their books and books by Zane Grey. In 2004, they also roped each other in holy matrimony. “Let’s just call it a late-in-life marriage,” says Jayne with a smile. “It’s the icing on the cake.”

Since their marriage, they’ve collaborated on books about the Pleasant Valley War, rodeos, Payson and cowboy cooking. Jinx has written more regionally themed novels, as well as a history of Rim Country cowboys that focuses on his father and grandfather. Jayne is working on a cookbook with recipes from the founding settlers of the Tonto Natural Bridge area and a book about the women of the Pleasant Valley War. In honor of Arizona’s Centennial, the two are also planning to publish a book on the early history of Payson.

In between writing and publishing, the couple keeps a busy calendar filled with speaking and performing dates around the state. Jinx sings, recites cowboy poetry and tells stories. “Jinx is the entertainer, and I’m the genealogist and researcher,” Jayne says.

Later this year, the Pyles will be honored again with their fellow Arizona Culturekeepers in a special Centennial event at the Westin Kierland Resort in Phoenix.

Perhaps their most important role, though, is as witnesses — keepers of the flame. “We know all the stories about the Mogollon Rim and the Tonto Basin,” reflects Jayne. “Our job is to remember — to write everything down before people forget — [so that] our history and culture [aren’t] lost forever.”

P R A T T ’ S

Q & A



Anthony Robles NCAA Champion Wrestler, Motivational Speaker

As an NCAA champion wrestler for Arizona State University and a motivational speaker, you’ve done a lot of traveling around the world. How has that changed your view of the state?

If anything, it has made me love Arizona that much more. It’s perfect here. It gets a little hot, but in the winter, it’s beautiful. Traveling has made me appreciate Arizona.

When people ask you about things to do in Arizona, what do you suggest?

I’m always recommending places to go. The nightlife of Mill Avenue in Tempe, Scottsdale, Westgate City Center in Glendale and, of course, paintballing, which is one of my favorite pastimes.

A lot of people move to Arizona because of the peace and calm of the desert. Do you find the same refuge in the outdoors?

Being outside helps me to recharge and to be alone. It’s nice to get some peace and quiet for a little bit.

When you’re not trying to make weight, what are your three favorite restaurants in Arizona?

Barro’s Pizza, Casa Reynoso in Tempe and Roka Akor in Scottsdale.

— Dave Pratt is the host of *Dave Pratt Live* on 103.9 FM in Phoenix

Giddyup Down in Tucson

Dude ranches are common in Arizona, but only the White Stallion, which has been welcoming guests since 1940, served as the set for *Arizona*, *Winchester 73* and *How the West Was Won*. The “beer and Cheetos” rides set it apart, too.

By KATHY MONTGOMERY

RIDING ACROSS THE DESERT at White Stallion Ranch felt like riding into my childhood. The craggy peaks of the saguaro-studded Tucson Mountains looked like cutouts against a still, perfect sky. A red-tailed hawk launched itself overhead. Longhorn cattle crossed my path.

It looked like the set of every Western I ever watched as a kid. And, in fact, some of them were filmed here, including TV shows like *The High Chaparral* and *How the West Was Won*. Several movies were filmed here, too, beginning with *Arizona*, the 1940 Academy Award-nominated film starring William Holden and Jean Arthur. Others include *Apache Ambush*, *The Last Outpost* and *Winchester 73*, which starred Gene Autry, Jimmy Stewart and Ronald Reagan.

In this setting, my husband and I played out our Western fantasies. We took daily rides, watched a rodeo and competed in team penning. At night, we retired to the bar (with saddle seats, naturally) to nosh on appetizers before a generous, ranch-style meal. Nightly entertainment included a “critter show” featuring snakes, spiders and scorpions, a cowboy magician, and a cowboy poet who performed by the light of a campfire.

The White Stallion has welcomed guests since 1940, and the True family has owned and operated it for nearly 50 of those years. They’ve worked hard to preserve the traditional dude-ranch experience, with lots of daily horseback-riding options from short, slow meanders through the surrounding desert to all-day rides into adjacent Saguaro National Park. Riders craving the drama of a Western can get their fix on a fast ride. In cooler months, those with a taste for something more contemporary can opt for a wine and cheese ride. The popular beer and Cheetos option is available most anytime. Pri-

White Stallion Ranch is located at 9251 W. Twin Peaks Road in Tucson. For more information, call 888-977-2624 or visit www.whitestallion.com.

vate and group riding lessons are also available for an extra charge.

If the mere thought of that much time on horseback makes you saddle sore, you should know that a massage therapist gives new meaning to the term “ranch hands.” And there are plenty of nonequestrian activities, including a fitness center, sports courts, a heated pool and, of course, a movie theater. Videos and DVDs are available on the honor system, but the staff keeps a tighter rein on those filmed at the ranch.

Single-day rates are available, but to get the full experience of a dude-ranch vacation, take advantage of the weekly rates. The White Stallion operates year-round on the American plan, with lodging, meals and riding included. Lodging options range from single rooms to a private, four-bedroom house. Each comes with a patio, from which you can see a whole galaxy of Western stars.



A view of the Skywalk over the Grand Canyon. | JOHN BURCHAM

Getting to the Bottom of This

If ever a photograph needed a disclaimer, this would be it. The message? DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME. Or at the Grand Canyon, as it were. Making this image required special permission and highly specialized skills. John Burcham is one of the few photographers in the world who had both.

By JEFF KIDA, photo editor

JOHN BURCHAM'S PASSION FOR adventure sports and rock-climbing helped him get this photo of the Grand Canyon Skywalk. On assignment for *National Geographic*, Burcham knew he'd have to produce spectacular images. His goal was to perch himself beneath the platform to create a sense of people floating. At the same time, he wanted to capture the distant cliffs of the Grand Canyon. That's where his climbing experience came in handy. Burcham rigged a climbing rope and began to inch over the edge of the Canyon on his belly. He then calmly worked his magic with a handheld camera and a 16-35 mm lens. He waited for the high clouds to move in to soften the light, thereby diminishing any dark shadows. He also timed his shots, waiting for people — all of whom were oblivious to Burcham's presence — to position themselves on the glass walkway above.



SHARP SHOOTING

There's an easy trick when it comes to the sharpening of digital photographs. It's called “unsharp mask,” and it's explained by knowing that the average human eye can see the effects — but not the cause — of artifacts smaller than 1/200 of an inch. So, when adjusting the “sharpening” feature in whatever software you're using, set the “radius” to your file's resolution, divided by 200. Round down to the nearest tenth for the best results.



ADDITIONAL READING: Look for our book *Arizona Highways Photography Guide*, available at bookstores and www.arizona-highways.com/books.



Enter our monthly caption contest by scanning this QR code with your smart phone or visiting <http://bit.ly/ahmcaptioncontest>.

Arizona: 2002-2012

In Arizona’s 10th decade, the bottom falls out on the economy, local football hero Pat Tillman dies in Afghanistan, and the Wallow Fire consumes 817 square miles of forest in the White Mountains, making it the largest wildfire in state history.

By JANA BOMMERSBACH

EDITOR’S NOTE: In February 2012, Arizona will celebrate 100 years of statehood, and *Arizona Highways* will publish a special Centennial issue. Leading up to that milestone, we’re presenting a 10-part history of the state. This is Part 10.

THE DECADE LEADING UP to next month’s Centennial has been a mixed bag. Over the past 10 years, women dominated the governor’s office. Democratic Attorney General Janet Napolitano succeeded Republican Governor Jane Dee Hull in 2003. Then, in 2009, when Napolitano left Arizona to join President Barack Obama’s cabinet as Secretary of Homeland Security, Republican Jan Brewer was sworn in.

Governor Brewer took over as the national economy was plummeting, and thus, her first years in office were dominated by cuts in an attempt to balance the state’s budget.

Prior to the economic downturn, things were looking up in Arizona. The state continued to grow, housing prices climbed and the medical-research industry — including cancer-research institutions — found a new home in downtown Phoenix. Plus, a light-rail public-transit system began operation, connecting Phoenix to Tempe and Mesa. It became a runaway hit, both with commuters and with tourists.

On the sports front, Arizona celebrated in 2002 when Lute Olson, the University of Arizona’s beloved basketball coach, was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. However, the state

grieved in 2004 when one of its true heroes, Arizona State University and Arizona Cardinals football star Pat Tillman, was killed in Afghanistan. Tillman walked away from a lucrative contract with the Cardinals to join the Army Rangers in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks. His Cardinals went to the Super Bowl in 2009, and even though the Cardinals lost, their mere presence on the gridiron after New Year’s Day was a boon to the state’s morale.

Arizona also made national news for a subject that would dominate state politics for the rest of the decade: immigration. In 2004, voters passed Proposition 200, which required voters to exhibit proof of citizenship. Six years later, the Legislature passed S.B. 1070, the first law to make it a crime to be in the state illegally.

Guns were in the news, as well. The biggest headlines resulted from the January 8, 2011, shooting in Tucson that left 13 people — including U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords — wounded and six people dead. After the shooting, hope sprung up around the state as communities came together on various fronts, and in Tucson, residents pitched in to build playgrounds in honor of 9-year-old victim Christina-Taylor Green. A couple months after the Tucson shooting, state legislators voted the Colt revolver the state’s official gun.

As 2011 unfolded, the news turned from gunfire to forest fires as the human-caused Wallow Fire became the largest in Arizona history, charring 817 square miles of land in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests of Eastern Arizona. A year earlier, the Schultz Fire burned more than 15,000 acres in the Coconino National Forest near Flagstaff, forcing nearly 750 people from their homes. Later this summer, the state will mark the 10th anniversary of the second-largest fire in Arizona history: the Rodeo-Chediski Fire, which scorched nearly a half-million acres on the Mogollon Rim.

Army Ranger and former Arizona State Sun Devils and Arizona Cardinals football player Pat Tillman was killed in Afghanistan in April 2004. | THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

DID YOU KNOW?

- On November 22, 2002, the Arizona Game and Fish Department stocked Tempe Town Lake with 5,000 rainbow trout.
- The National Trust for Historic Preservation named Prescott one of its “Dozen Distinctive Destinations” in March 2006.
- University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale opened as the new home of the Arizona Cardinals on August 1, 2006.
- Metro Light Rail opened to passengers in December 2008.
- In 2010, a federal judge ruled that bald eagles in Arizona could be removed from the endangered species list.



RANDY PRENTICE



RANDY PRENTICE

ARIZONA: THEN & NOW

AT 10,912 FEET, ESCUDILLA Mountain ranks as the second-highest peak in the White Mountains, second only to Mount Baldy. In autumn, it was always one of the most photographed landmarks in the state, thanks to the colorful aspens, mixed in among the firs and spruce. All of that changed, however, during the summer of 2011, when the Wallow Fire swept across Escudilla Mountain, leaving many of its trees destroyed.

IN THE NEWS

Headlines 2 0 0 2 - 2 0 1 2

January 10, 2002:
“Valley Home Sales Hit Record: Median Price of Existing Houses Up 6 Percent”
— *The Arizona Republic*

October 24, 2004:
“Registered Voter Rolls Soar 21 Percent in Arizona”
— *The Arizona Republic*

November 16, 2005:
“Saguaros Under Fire: Non-Native Grasses May Radically Alter Sonoran Desert, Experts Warn”
— *The Tucson Citizen*

April 26, 2006:
“Goddard Fights High Gas Cost”
— *The Arizona Republic*

May 7, 2007:
“UA’s Phoenix Mars Mission Heads Today to Fla. Takeoff Site”
— *The Arizona Republic*

July 2, 2008:
“Blaze Threatens Homes at Hidden Shores: Cause of Brush Fire Northwest of Yuma Is Unknown”
— *The Yuma Sun*

September 11, 2008:
“State Taps \$13.6 Mil to Curb Foreclosures, Assist Homeless”
— *The Arizona Republic*

January 9, 2011:
“Rep. Giffords Shot, Critical”
— *Arizona Daily Star*

June 3, 2011:
“Westgate Goes Into Trustee’s Sale”
— *The Glendale Star*



CROSSED J RANCH, EST. 1879

Willcox, Arizona

BY KELLY KRAMER | PHOTOGRAPH BY SCOTT BAXTER

Some kids count sheep to fall asleep, but Ashley Riggs counts cows — for real. It’s just one of her responsibilities on the Crossed J Ranch, which has been in her family for six generations. “I count the cows on weekends,” Ashley says. “I don’t have to worry about it after school or anything.” At age 9, Ashley is as much a part of the ranch as it is a part of her, and she doesn’t have any plans to leave it. “My favorite part of life here is watching the baby cows being born,” she says. “I love this land.” Scott Baxter photographed Ashley applying salve to a newly branded calf in February 2011.



MARK LIPCZYNSKI

Sirens' Allure

Homer's version of a siren was a little frightening. Kingman's is not, thanks to the mother-daughter duo behind Sirens' Café, who are cooking up fare so tempting, you'll want to sail straight for the front door.

By KATHY RITCHIE

DON'T LET THE NAME fool you. Sirens' Café in Kingman is just as tempting as the mythical creatures that lured men to their deaths with their sweet songs. In the case of Sirens', the café, it's the food that draws diners into the under-the-sea-inspired (in a charming way) eatery. Of course, it also helps that owners Carmella Hynes and Denise McMillan, the mother-daughter duo behind Sirens', are the kinds of people you'd want to share a glass of wine with.

"The number one comment we get is that Sirens' feels like home," Carmella says.

"It's about the four F's," Denise chimes in. "Food, family, fun and friends." And since opening for business in 2009, their four-F mantra has paid off. Folks swear by Sirens', and it's easy to understand why.

"We make most everything we can from scratch," explains Carmella, who studied cooking in Florence, Italy, when she was 19. "We make our own crust for our quiches, we make our own pasta and our own ricotta — we're also very spontaneous. People come in asking when we're going to make our French onion soup, and I say, 'When Mom feels like it.'"

Lunchtime is bustling. There's a board with the day's specials written on it: spinach-mushroom-Swiss quiche; roast beef panini with red peppers, caramelized onion and Swiss cheese sauce; and zucchini-and-lime soup. Green soup?

"I saw something similar, so I started playing around with it," says Carmella, who makes the majority of the soups. "I wanted everything to be green. There are jalapeños, zucchinis, green onions, cilantro, celery and limes. It's cooked in stages, so the flavors are layered together."

They say the mark of a good chef is her ability to make a first-rate soup, and Carmella can certainly bring it. The soup is delightful — light, fresh and full of flavor. Sirens' other offerings are just as delectable. The crust on the quiche has a buttery, right-out-of-the-oven flake to

it, and the tender, slow-roasted beef on the panini is piled on thick, oozing with flavor.

Ironically, sandwiches were never part of the plan. "This place used to be a deli, and when we started working on the menu, people kept saying, 'We want sandwiches,'" Denise says. "We didn't want to do just sandwiches. We wanted to do high-end catering — we love catering parties."

By day, Sirens' is a bustling lunchtime café. By night, Carmella and Denise play hostess and cater everything from weddings to birthdays to corporate lunches. They've also started creating their own events — like their monthly lobster roll party — just so they can cook.

"We send a text message letting people know that we're doing lobster rolls," Carmella says. "People ask to be on our lobster list."

"For being landlocked mermaids, we're very well known for our lobster rolls," Denise adds.

Above all, this mother-daughter team is doing something you don't see too often: They're doing what they want. And it's working. "It's the love of food, but the rewarding part is that people keep coming back," Denise says. "Half our clientele, we call our friends."

Sirens' Café is located at 419 E. Beale Street in Kingman. For more information, call 928-753-4151 or visit www.sirensinkingman.com.

Oh, Give Me a Home Elk, black bears, mule deer, mountain lions ... Arizona is home to an impressive list of large mammals, including American bison. However, if you want to see where the buffalo roam, your choices are limited to Flagstaff and the Kaibab Plateau. **BY DANIEL JACKA**

It's a familiar story, but in case you were sleeping through history class: Buffalo once roamed all across the grasslands of North America, from northwestern Canada, along the western boundary of the Appalachian Mountains, and into Mexico. Today, they're much harder to find, especially in Arizona.

During the peak of their existence in the early- to mid-1800s, American bison, or buffalo, numbered more than 60 million across the continent. However, they were hunted to near extinction in the late 1800s. Now, they're

mostly found in national parks and refuges.

In Arizona, two wildlife areas are home to bison: the Raymond Wildlife Area, east of Flagstaff, and the House Rock Wildlife Area, which is located on the Kaibab Plateau near the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

As the largest land mammals in the state, and also North America, these gentle giants

average between 60 and 78 inches in height, and weigh between 1,700 and 2,500

For more information about the Raymond Wildlife Area and the House Rock Wildlife Area, call the Arizona Game and Fish Department at 602-942-3000 or visit www.azgfd.gov.

pounds. As you might expect, it takes a load of food to fuel that girth — American bison eat more than 30 pounds of grass per day.

Because of their intimidating size, adult bison have virtually no predators; however, young bison will sometimes fall prey to mountain lions. To guard against big-cat attacks, bison form large herds, which are usually dominated by a strong female. And, if prompted, they can take off running, reaching speeds of up to 35 mph for a run of a quarter-mile. They can also cover longer distances, but at slower speeds.

Although bison are primarily docile, they will charge if provoked, and their jump is something to be reckoned with, too — they've been known to jump 6-foot-high fences without making contact. So, find a place where the buffalo roam — but watch from a distance.



TIM FITZARRIS

nature factoid



BRUCE D. TAUBERT

Gray Catbird

The gray catbird is nature's version of a jazz singer. The "songs" they produce can last as long as 10 minutes and don't have a fixed sequence of tones. In fact, notes are seldom repeated within the same song. Although melodious, their songs also serve an important purpose — gray catbirds chirp to defend their habitats.



SUZANNE MATHIA

Photo Workshop

JANUARY 14-16
GRAND CANYON

Winter is the perfect time for learning about photography at the Grand Canyon. Join Peter Ensenberger as he leads a special workshop that offers opportunities to capture photos of elk, deer, condors and maybe even a reclusive bighorn sheep. Cold, crisp winter air provides crystalline light for beautiful sunrises and glorious sunsets, with critique sessions held in between. *Information: 888-790-7042 or www.friendsofhighways.com*

Polar Bear Plunge

JANUARY 1 KINGMAN

Ring in the New Year by taking a frigid dip during this annual event. Participants brave enough to jump into the freezing waters of the Centennial Pool can pick up a few mystery prizes at the bottom, and, more importantly, enjoy bragging rights. Remember to check with your doctor before participating in the plunge. *Information: 928-757-7919 or www.cityofkingman.gov*



KERRICK JAMES

SUZANNE MATHIA

Multicultural Festival

JANUARY 14 CHANDLER

This event is all about celebrating the city's rich diversity and culture. Through music, dance, art, storytelling, and showcasing the arts and crafts of various cultures, this designated Arizona Centennial festival promotes cultural diversity and awareness. *Information: 480-782-2735*



Havasu Island Balloon Festival & Fair

JANUARY 19-22 LAKE HAVASU

The second annual Havasu Island Balloon Festival & Fair takes place this year at the Beachfront Nautical Inn on Havasu Island. In addition to balloons taking off from an island, there will also be a fair with food and crafts. Balloons take off around dawn (weather permitting), so arrive early, and take a camera. *Information: 928-505-2440 or www.havasuballoonfest.com*



COURTESY OF BARRETT-JACKSON

Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction

JANUARY 17-23 SCOTTSDALE

Billed as the world's most valuable classic car auction, this Scottsdale event is a favorite among car aficionados. This year's auction will feature product demonstrations from exhibitors and sponsors, and the opportunity to test-drive some of the newest Ford, GM and Porsche models on the Ride 'N Drive track. *Information: 480-663-6255 or www.barrett-jackson.com*

GO FISH!

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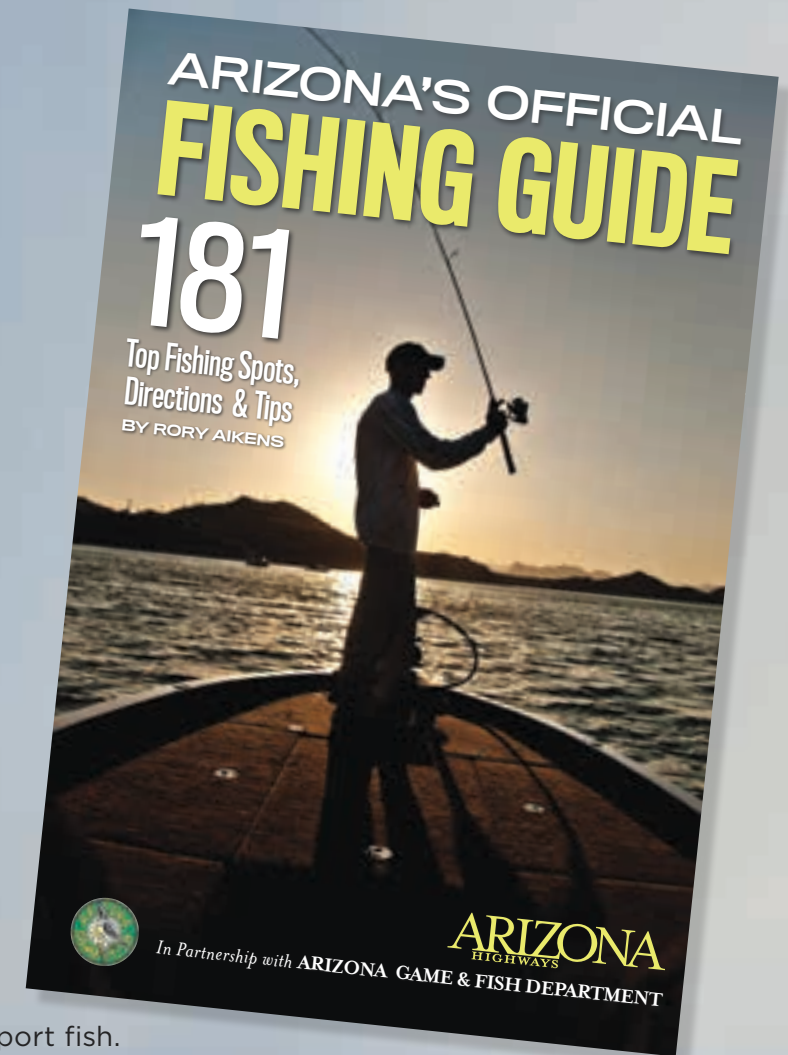
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- Fishing tips
- Historical notes
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IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURE?

•→ Look no further. Our fifth annual guide to the state's best weekend adventures and road trips offers something for everyone, including an introduction to rock-climbing in Prescott, a rare excursion into a forbidden canyon on the Hopi Indian Reservation, and a three-hour horseback-ride through some of the most beautiful country in Arizona.

By Kelly Kramer, Annette McGivney, Jacki Mieler, Kathy Ritchie & Robert Stieve



Riders cross the rolling grasslands of Sonoita's Babocomari Ranch as part of an Arizona Horseback Experience tour. | JEFF KIDA

HORSEBACK-RIDING ➔ *Sonoita*

Sonoita doesn't need any more selling points. Along with its sister city, Patagonia, Sonoita is one of the most beautiful places in Arizona — make that the world — but throw in a stable full of easygoing horses, a gracious outfitter, the state's oldest winery ... and things just keep getting better. In other words, if you're looking for a resolution that won't be hard to keep this year, plan on spending a few hours (or a few days) with Marge and Ron Izzo, the wonderful husband-wife team that runs Arizona Horseback Experience in Sonoita.

The Izzos' ranch is located about 45 minutes south of Tucson, in the heart of the high grasslands that once served as the home of the Apaches and have since attracted cattlemen, outdoors enthusiasts and even Hollywood. Dozens of movies have been filmed in the area, including *Tombstone*, *McClintock*, *A Star Is Born* and *Oklahoma!* People in the Sooner State are still miffed about that last one. Nevertheless,

INFORMATION: Multiple ride packages are available. For details, call Arizona Horseback Experience at 520-455-5696 or visit www.horsebackexperience.com.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: La Hacienda de Sonoita B&B, Sonoita, 520-455-5308 or www.haciendasonoita.com; Sonoita Vineyards, Elgin, 520-455-5893 or www.sonoitavineyards.com; Velvet Elvis Pizza Company, Patagonia, 520-394-2102 or www.velvetelvispizza.com

you might recognize some of the surroundings from the movie: the Santa Rita Mountains to the west, the Mustang Mountains to the east, the Patagonia Mountains to the southwest and the Huachuca Mountains to the southeast. It's gorgeous country, and the Izzos offer 23 different ride options for seeing it.

The full-day ride, which is one of Ron's favorites, leaves the ranch and explores the nearby Coronado National Forest. Lunch and bottled water are provided, and riders get a couple of chances to hop off their horses and stretch their legs. The five-day trip heads in the same direc-

tion, but keeps on climbing to an elevation of 9,000 feet in the Huachuca Mountains, where camp is made among the majestic blue spruce and Douglas firs. Either ride is worth a New Year's resolution. And so is the popular wine-tasting tour.

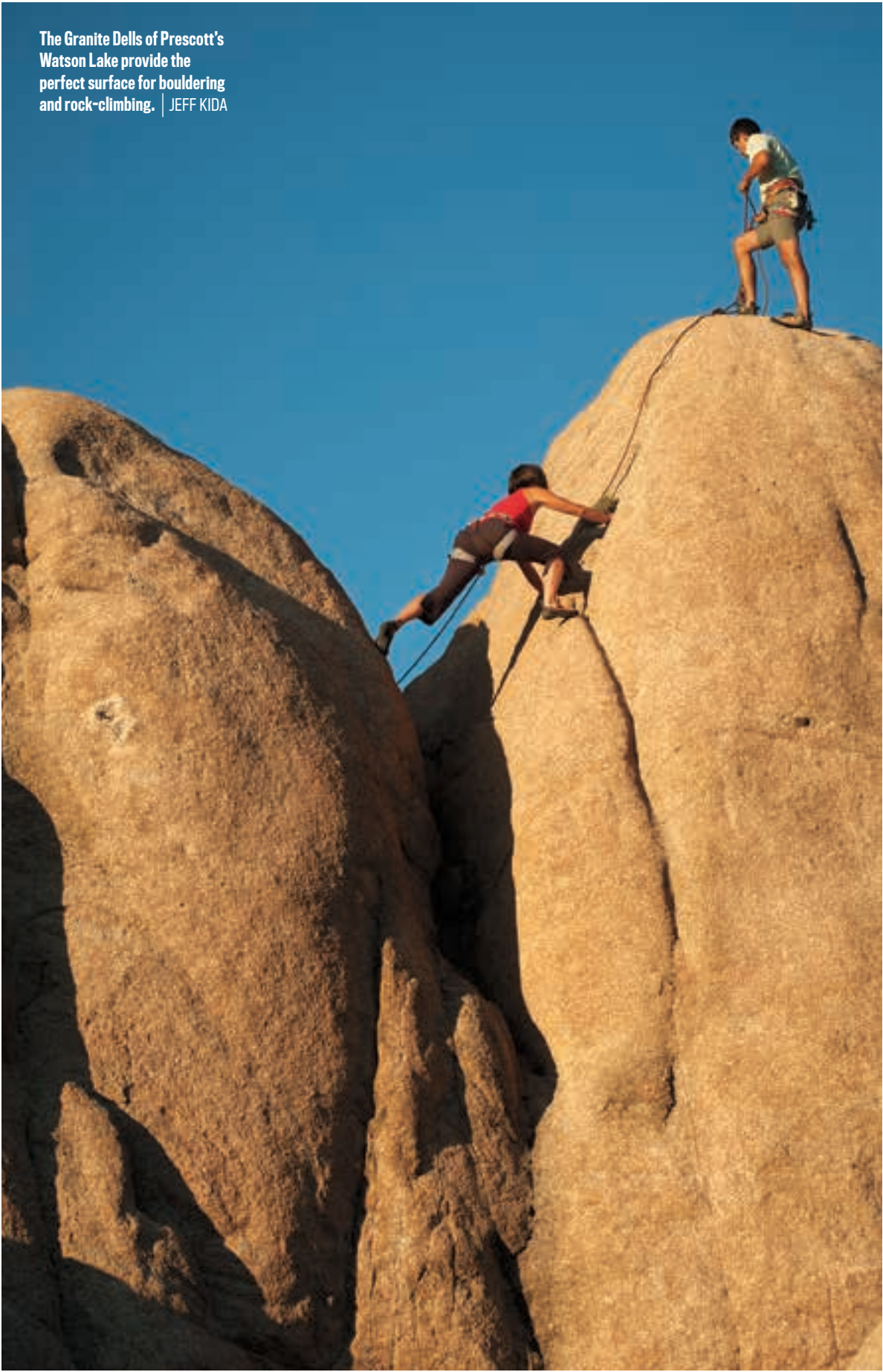
Like the others, this one leaves from ranch headquarters, but instead of going southeast, it heads due east and crosses into the 33,000-acre Babocomari Ranch, which has been owned by the Brophy family of Phoenix since 1935 and is the only Spanish land grant still intact in Southern Arizona. The ride covers 8 miles in three hours and ties up at the award-winning Sonoita Vineyards in Elgin.

There are nine wineries in the Sonoita area. This was the first, and it's certainly among the best. The vineyard was established in 1973 by Dr. Gordon Dutt, a retired soil scientist from the University of Arizona who discovered that the soil in Sonoita was similar to the red dirt found



Ron Izzo leads riders on single- or multi-day tours through some of Arizona's most beautiful landscapes. | JEFF KIDA

in France. Today, the grapes are in the capable hands of winemaker Fran Lightly, and the wine is poured by Foster Drummond, the vineyard's storyteller extraordinaire. The wine he serves is included in the price of the ride, and so is lunch. Riders are also given a complimentary bottle of wine and a souvenir wine glass, neither of which you'll have to load back on your horse. The horses and riders are shuttled back to the ranch, where, if the timing is right, you might get to watch the sun set over the Santa Ritas. It's the perfect ending to a perfect day in one of the most beautiful places in the world. — *Robert Stieve*



ROCK-CLIMBING ➔ *Watson Lake, Prescott*

Matt Brown loves to give folks an experience they'll never forget, and since opening Rubicon Outdoors in 1998, he's been doing just that — offering thrill-seekers of all ages something truly unforgettable.

Of course, it's not just what Rubicon offers that sets it apart from the competition. It's also the people who work with Brown day in and day out. Rubicon is a family-owned-and-operated venture, and the highly trained guides who work for Brown are his close friends.

"I have the best folks working for me," he says. Indeed he does. Rubicon's guides are friendly, helpful and enthusiastic about what they do. They're also keen to give you a made-to-order adventure.

"We've created options ... so we can tailor the day to the individual," Brown says.

Rubicon's roll-with-the-punches philosophy means you can combine adventures, a definite plus if time is an issue. For a full day of adventure, consider combining rock-climbing, their most popular excursion, with mountain-biking. Brown and his crew will make all the necessary arrangements. All you have to do is show up.

Once you arrive at Ironclad Bicycles, you'll be fitted for a bike and a helmet. After that, you're off. You'll follow your guides to a trailhead that's appropriate for your skill level. It won't be long before you smell the pine trees as you begin to make your way up a hill. Your guide will remind you to shift gears (a very helpful tip). They'll also tell you that if you need to stop and walk your bike, it's OK. In fact, your guide will

INFORMATION: Rubicon Outdoors, 800-903-6987 or www.rubiconoutdoors.com

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Hotel Vendome, Prescott, 928-776-0900 or www.vendomehotel.com; Raven Café, Prescott, 928-717-0009; Whiskey Row, www.whiskeyrow.us

probably hop off in solidarity. Of course, if mountain-biking is a prelude to rock-climbing, then consider yourself warmed up.

About 15 minutes from downtown Prescott are Watson Lake and the Granite Dells. If you've never been, it's an awe-inspiring site. Massive boulders appear stacked upon one another, creating alien-looking rock formations, which, by the way, are your climbing destination. The gear is already set up by the time you arrive, and all you have to do is change your shoes and step into your harness. Once you're safely and securely strapped in, you're given the green light: It's time to rappel down the very vertical rock face.

After skipping down the Dells, another guide greets you at the bottom. Your blood is pumping, your confidence is soaring, the adrenaline is rushing, and now you're faced with a choice: Climb back up à la Tom Cruise in *Mission Impossible 2* or hike the rocks to the top. You'll want to try the former. The climb back up is tough, but doable. After you reach the top, the thrill of the climb might leave you wanting more. Go for it. Brown and his guides are more than happy to accommodate, and what may have been something you intended as a one-time, cross-off-your-bucket-list adventure, is now a new hobby. — *Kathy Ritchie*

HOT-AIR BALLOONING

•➔ *Sedona*

Whoever said romance is dead never saw the Arizona sunrise over the majestic Red Rocks of Sedona. If you're looking to ditch the daily grind for a weekend of *l'amour*, plus a little adventure in the form of a balloon ride, consider booking a room (*à deux*) at The Lodge at Sedona.

Tucked away off State Route 89A in Sedona, The Lodge at Sedona was once home to a prominent physician, his wife and their 12 children. Today, it's been transformed into a different kind of home away from home, a place for those looking for that *je ne sais quoi* — of course, if you don't know what you're looking for, it's a good thing you're here, because Wendy Umstattd, the lodge's general manager, probably does.

Umstattd designed the “Up, Up and Away Balloon Adventure Package” to give guests that little something extra — and it's that kind of extra that makes you want to come back again and again.

“We have a tremendous return-guest occupancy,” she notes.

After checking in, guests are shown around the public areas of the B&B, which are filled with pieces evocative of Frank Lloyd Wright's own furniture designs, before being ushered into the Deluxe King

INFORMATION: The Lodge at Sedona, 800-619-4467 or www.lodgeatsedona.com

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Elote Café, Sedona, 928-203-0105 or www.elotecafe.com; Tlaquepaque Arts & Crafts Village, Oak Creek, 928-282-4838 or www.tlaq.com; Cathedral Rock Trail, Sedona, 928-282-4119 or www.fs.usda.gov/coconino

Suite for their two-night stay. All of the King rooms are beautifully appointed, and most of the rooms have a cozy fireplace in the corner, or a private entrance and patio area — perfect for taking in the peace and quiet.

Throughout the property, there are seating areas, water features and even a meditative walking labyrinth (consider taking a walk here if you're nervous about the next day's flight). Although dinner is not served on the property (the helpful staff is happy to direct you to a restaurant in the area), a gourmet breakfast is, and snacks are served in the afternoon and early evening.

The adventure itself begins bright and early — before sunrise. Guests are picked up at The Lodge at Sedona and taken to the balloon's launch site. The ride itself is about an hour and a half, and during that time guests are treated to quite a view.

“You're looking down at these formations from a different point of view than if you took a Jeep tour,” Umstattd says. “When people come back from the ride, they're blown away. You're enjoying a balloon flight over Red Rock country — there's nothing like it.”

And she's right. As guests gently glide over the stunning landscape, they'll also hear about the history of ballooning, learn about the sites below and receive a DVD of their adventure. Upon arriving on terra firma, a continental picnic including mimosas will be served — after all, who couldn't use a mimosa after a ride like this? It's still early when the van pulls up to the lodge, allowing guests to pick up where they left off — escaping the cacophony of everyday living. — *Kathy Ritchie*



A hot-air-balloon tour of Sedona reveals sweeping red-rock landscapes. | JEFF KIDA

RAFTING

➔ *Grand Canyon West*

The West has long lured adventure seekers with the promise of breathtaking, wide-open spaces and exhilarating new experiences. The world's grandest canyon is no exception, as evidenced by the 5 million people who visit Grand Canyon's North Rim and South Rim every year. The national park belongs on everybody's bucket list, and so does Grand Canyon West, which offers a different perspective on this geologic treasure.

Located nearly 250 driving miles from the South Rim, Grand Canyon West is on the Hualapai Indian Reservation, which stretches for 108 miles along the western rim of Arizona's signature landmark.

A Grand Canyon West getaway starts with the adventure of just getting there. While the majority of visitors fly in from Las Vegas, those arriving by car get a scenic, back-roads journey before even peering over the rim. The traditional route heads 70 miles north from Kingman and culminates with a 9-mile drive on

INFORMATION: Hualapai Tourism, 888-868-9378 or www.hualapaitourism.com

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Hualapai Lodge, 928-769-2636 or www.hualapaitourism.com; Papillon Helicopters, 888-635-7272 or www.papillon.com

an unpaved, Joshua tree-lined road. For the more adventurous, the well-maintained Indian Route 1, a dirt road, from Peach Springs will make you feel like you're approaching the Canyon like the trailblazers of the past.

The Grand Canyon Skywalk (see page 9) brought international recognition to Grand Canyon West, but the Hualapai Tribe's tourism roots existed long before they offered visitors the opportunity to walk 65 feet beyond the rim and look nearly 4,000 feet down to the Canyon floor.

A variety of packages and add-ons are available for purchase, all including access to the hop-on, hop-off shuttle to scenic viewpoints. Grab lunch at Eagle Point and gaze at the majestically spread wings of the aptly named rock formation. A tour around the Native American Village offers a glimpse into authentic representations of dwellings from tribes that live near the Grand Canyon. Guano Point is Grand Canyon West's own version of Hollywood, having served as the iconic backdrop in dozens of productions.

Millions of people look down into the Grand Canyon every year, but very few get to look up from the bottom. The helicopter and pontoon-boat ride option lets visitors be among the elite few. That moment when the helicopter glides over the rim will take your breath away, only to be rivaled by sizing up the massive canyon walls from your pontoon boat perch on the Colorado River.

Set up a home base at the Hualapai Lodge in Peach Springs for access to Grand Canyon West and a dose of Arizona's Route 66 heritage. After all, even the West's most adventurous explorers need a place to lay their heads at night. — *Jacki Mieler*

A pontoon-boat tour of the Colorado River at Grand Canyon West gives visitors the opportunity to experience the Canyon from the bottom up. | PAUL MARKOW



Bear cubs frolic in a ponderosa pine at Williams' Bearizona Drive-Thru Wildlife Park. | LARRY LINDHAL

WILDLIFE-WATCHING ➔ *Williams*

There are drive-throughs, and then there are drive throughs — the kind that inspire you to stay a while. Bearizona Drive-Thru Wildlife Park is among the latter. When you go, you'll want to linger, and you'll tell your friends to do the same.

The main draw at Bearizona is the park's population of black bears, but you'll also find American bison, arctic wolves, burros, bighorn sheep and Dall sheep. And those are just in the drive-through portion of the park, a 3-mile-long dirt road that skirts 160 acres of the Kaibab National Forest just north of Williams.

Bearizona's animals aren't afraid to get up-close-and-personal with park guests, and that's why it's important to keep your windows rolled up at all times. Bison are big. You don't want them hitching a ride. The same goes for the bears.

Twelve of them live along the road, and they're usually within eyesight. Before you enter the bears' territory, a friendly Bearizona staffer will remind you to keep your windows up and your vehicle moving — parked cars, apparently, make appealing scratching posts for the main attractions.

Once you've completed the driving portion of the adventure, park and visit Fort Bearizona, a 20-acre spread that features more wildlife. Here, the animals are behind fences, and visi-

tors can walk through at their own pace.

Foxes, bear cubs and juvenile bears, raccoons, javelinas, bobcats and birds live at Fort Bearizona, and a "barnyard" enables little adventurers to get close to goats, pigs, chickens, ducks, peacocks, rabbits and ponies. It's a petting zoo within the zoo.

Admittedly, there's something touristy about Bearizona — artists and food vendors peddle their wares, and a gift shop is perched near the exit — but the park does have a serious goal: conservation. According to park literature, "Bearizona's mission is to promote conservation and preservation through safe, affordable, memorable and educational encounters with North American wildlife in a natural environment."

Mission accomplished. — *Kelly Kramer*

INFORMATION: Bearizona is located at 1500 E. Route 66 in Williams. For hours, call 928-635-2289 or visit www.bearizona.com.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Firelight Bed & Breakfast, Williams, 888-838-8218 or www.firelightbandb.com; Grand Canyon Railway, Williams, 800-843-8724 or www.thetrain.com; Red Raven Restaurant, Williams, 928-635-4980 or www.redravenrestaurant.com



Only authorized Hopi guides can lead visitors into the ancient, hoodoo-peppered Blue Canyon. | KERRICK JAMES

CANYONEERING → *Hopi Indian Reservation*

You can learn a lot about a place when the person showing it to you has lived there for more than a thousand years. The ancestral knowledge Micah Loma'omvaya has of Blue Canyon and the rest of his Hopi homeland runs deep. He's from the ancient village of Shungopavi, a member of the Bear Clan, a tribal spiritual leader, and has a degree in anthropology from the University of Arizona. He's also an official Hopi guide and one of the few people authorized by the Hopi Tribe to show nontribal members the sacred and spectacular slice of earth called Blue Canyon.

"This is the real painted desert," Loma'omvaya says as you bump across the reservation on a washboard road where the canyon shimmers some 10 miles in the distance — a twisting kaleidoscope of colors: blue, green, orange, yellow. Loma'omvaya is on a mission to show you what is real. For starters, what appears to be blue (and how the canyon got its name) is an illusion. Upon closer inspection, this clay, a kind of mancos shale, is actually

pale gray, although through sunglasses it looks turquoise.

Parking your truck on the sandy and broad canyon bottom, you'll traipse after Loma'omvaya through the greasewood and rabbitbrush bushes, wondering where you're going. Here, in the upper part of Blue Canyon, the distant walls look like neatly stacked slices of bread: rye, wheat and white. Rising from mid-canyon are sandstone islands, Lilliputian villages populated with burnt orange hoodoos that are hauntingly human-like.

You'll reach a canyon wall, and Loma'omvaya points to faint etchings in the rock that you would have missed if you'd been alone. Petroglyphs. Everywhere. "These are prehistoric from our Pueblo ancestors," he says, pointing out the Hopi symbols for corn and rain.

"Is this guy wearing a coat and tie?" you ask, perplexed.

"That is the storyteller kachina," Loma'omvaya explains. "He is wearing a jeweled pendant."

Located in the Moenkopi Wash drainage between Tuba City and Second Mesa, Blue Canyon was the home of ancient Pueblo cotton farmers. In the late 19th century it was a thoroughfare for travelers between Winslow and Navajo Mountain, and in the early 1900s it was the site of a Bureau of Indian Affairs school. Today, Blue Canyon is empty of human habitation (unless you count the hoodoos) and protected as a tribal preserve. Loma'omvaya points to the crumbled walls of an old trading post and the school, a ghost town dwarfed by the giant sky.

By late afternoon, when the sky has grown heavy with monsoon clouds and the air is like syrup, you'll find yourself sweating in a willow-choked, quicksand-filled stretch of lower Blue Canyon. Tadpoles begin darting furiously in a pool at your feet. "They are calling in the rain," Loma'omvaya says.

And then drops fall. — Annette McGivney

INFORMATION: To book a guided trip into Blue Canyon with Micah Loma'omvaya, call 800-774-0830 or visit www.hopitours.com. **NOTE:** Access to Blue Canyon and other private areas on the Hopi Indian Reservation is restricted and requires an authorized Hopi guide.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Moenkopi Legacy Inn, 928-283-4500 or www.experiencehopi.com; Hopi Cultural Center, 928-734-2401 or www.hopiculturalcenter.com; Village of Walpi Tour Services, 928-737-9556



Visitors pick their own vegetables during Yuma's Field to Feast Agriculture Tours. | COURTESY YUMA VISITORS BUREAU

FARMING → Yuma

Chances are good that if you're eating lettuce — be it in a salad, sandwiched in a BLT or as a garnish for your tacos — between November and April, that lettuce was grown in Yuma. Approximately 85 percent of the nation's winter vegetables are grown in this western Arizona city. During the dry summer months, all of that production moves to California's Salinas Valley.

It's a staggering statistic, not to mention a lot of lettuce, and thanks to Yuma's Field to Feast Agriculture Tours, you have a chance to get to the root of the bounty.

"The Field to Feast interactive agriculture tours are a great, hands-on way to learn about Yuma's agriculture, the city's No. 1 industry," says Kristan Sheppard, director of agritourism for the Yuma Visitors Bureau. "It has given us titles like the 'Winter Vegetable Capital of the World' and 'Medjool Date Capital of the World.' Tour participants will learn about the industry, harvest produce and taste a few of the more than 175 crops grown in the Yuma area."

The five-hour tours depart from the Yuma Visitors Center, which is located at Yuma Quartermaster State Historic Park, a supply-distribution hub for the U.S. Army during the late 19th century. Next stop: the fields of the University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension, where the Yuma Safe Produce Council provides an interactive food-safety demonstration.

"Participants learn food-safety do's and don'ts straight from the experts," Sheppard says. "The Yuma Safe Produce Council

has representatives at every tour to not only ensure that participants' harvesting experience complies with good food-safety practices, but also to educate the public on the importance of food safety and what the growers do to make sure that each field produces safe crops."

Then, it's into the field, where you can pick your own vegetables. Your selections will be transported to Arizona Western College, and while they're en route, you'll be treated to a tour of the Yuma Valley — the fertile swath of land that's cut by the Colorado River and is home to wetlands and a variety of wildlife.

After the tour, it's off to the college, where a team of culinary students will have prepared a freshly made lunch from your very own ingredients — tractor to table, field to feast.

— Kelly Kramer

INFORMATION: Yuma Field to Feast Agriculture Tours are available February 1 through mid-March. For details, call 928-783-0071 or visit www.visityuma.com.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Yuma Quartermaster Depot, Yuma, 928-783-0071 or www.azstateparks.com/parks/yuqu; Hilton Garden Inn, Pivot Point, 928-783-1500 or <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com>; La Fonda Restaurant and Tortilla Factory, 928-783-6902 or www.lafondarestaurantandtortillafactory.com

THE BIG EVENTS

A quick look at 25 of our favorite festivals in 2012.

By Maggie Pingolt



Event dates and times are subject to change. Contact event organizers for more detailed information.

1 Best Fest January 20-22 Tucson

Celebrate the "Best of Arizona" and salute our state at the second of three Best Fests. The first Best Fest took place last September in Prescott, the Territorial capital, and drew more than 70,000 people. Let's just say, Tucson's Best Fest certainly won't disappoint, with plenty of activities for the entire family. **Information:** www.az100years.org

2 Lake Havasu Music Brews & BBQ Championship January 27-28 Lake Havasu

The Lake Havasu Music Brews & BBQ Championship challenges musicians and BBQ connoisseurs to put on their game faces. Guests can expect 100 Pro Comp BBQ teams, a People's Choice sampling challenge, food, crafts and, of course, plenty of live music. While you're there, don't forget to check out the fourth Annual Crossroads & Bike Show on Saturday. **Information:** 928-208-2375 or www.musicbrewsbbq.com

3 Winterfest February 1-29 Flagstaff

Now in its 26th year, Flagstaff's Winterfest is a month-long party, featuring a different event each week. Essentially, there's something for everyone. Whether you're an arts lover or a fan of outdoor sports, the lineup at Winterfest runs the gamut from

classic movies and a First Friday art walk to skiing games at Arizona Snowbowl and the Winter Food Fest. Admission prices vary depending on the event, but most are free and within walking distance of downtown Flagstaff. **Information:** 928-774-4505 or www.flagstaffchamber.com

4 Chocolate Affaire February 3-5 Glendale

If you had to associate a month with chocolate, February would probably be your best bet, what with Valentine's Day and all. But Glendale takes it to another level. With some 30 chocolatiers on site, plus wine-tastings, horse-drawn carriage rides and romance-novelist workshops, this potentially addictive event is a real treat for those who love all things chocolate. **Information:** 623-930-3077 or www.glendaleaz.com/events

5 Tubac Festival of the Arts February 8-12 Tubac

The 53rd Annual Tubac Festival of the Arts showcases the work of hundreds of artists, including painters, photographers, sculptors and more. In addition, catch the many dance performances and enjoy delicious eats from the food court. Admission is free, and parking fees will be donated to local arts programs benefitting this event. **Information:** 520-398-2704 or www.tubacaz.com/festival.asp



Folklorico dancers brighten the La Frontera International Mariachi Conference.

| EDWARD MCCAIN

6 Best Fest February 10-12 Phoenix

If you missed Tucson's Best Fest, don't fret just yet. Leading up to the state's official birthday, Phoenix will be hosting the third and final Best Fest. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, this "Signature Event" will boast musical acts, plenty of cultural offerings, entertainment, food and much more. **Information:** www.az100years.org

7 La Fiesta de los Vaqueros February 18-26 Tucson

Expect nine days of action-packed excitement at this annual festival, which celebrates the cowboy's way of life. La Fiesta de los Vaqueros will feature bull-riding, bareback- and saddle-bronc-riding, as well as steer-wrestling, team-roping and women's barrel-racing. In between events, shop for custom, handmade leather goods, and eat, drink and dance the night away at the Coors Rodeo dance. **Information:** 520-294-1280 or www.tucsonrodeo.com

8 Sedona International Film Festival February 18-26 Sedona

Can't make it to Sundance this year? Head instead to the Sedona International Film Festival. In addition to rubbing elbows with some wonderfully creative writers and directors, this year's festival boasts more than 145 films, including several foreign entries. Workshops and an awards cere-

mony round out the event. Individual tickets are \$12 per film; other packages and deals range from \$100 to \$700. **Information:** 928-282-1177 or www.sedonafilmfestival.com

9 Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market

March 3-4 Phoenix

The Heard Museum is internationally known for its extensive Native American art collection. But in the spring, it boasts more than just great exhibits. It also plays host to the second-largest Indian fair and market in the country. Now in its 54th year, the event features Native American cuisine, more than 700 artists showcasing their work, plus Native song and dance. The museum's galleries will be open during the festival, and the entrance fee to this family friendly event includes museum admission. **Information:** 602-252-8840 or www.heard.org/fair

10 Festival of Books

March 10-11 Tucson

Celebrate the written word at the Tucson Festival of Books. The *Arizona Daily Star* and the University of Arizona come together to celebrate literacy with this free, two-day event, where authors share, sign and discuss their books. In addition, look for more than 20 different groups and performers showcasing their dancing, singing, poetry and spoken talents, and 15 purveyors of food and drink. **Information:** 520-891-9681 or www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org

11 Arizona Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Gathering

March 24-25 Phoenix

Calling all wee lads and lassies! If you're of Scottish descent or simply enjoy all things Scot, this 48th annual event is for you. With plenty of things to see and do, visitors will be entertained all day with traditional and modern Scottish tunes, Celtic arts and crafts, competitive highland dancing, plus pipe bands, heavy athletics, country dancing, various re-enactments and vintage British car exhibitions. **Information:** 602-431-0095 or www.arizonascots.com

12 Yuma Taco Festival

April 14 Yuma

If you don't like tacos, you probably will after attending this second annual culinary festival-slash-taco-making competition. Think you've got what it takes? Assemble your own taco team and go after the title of "Yuma Taco King." And make sure you arrive early. Last year some 6,000 people showed up to eat, drink and celebrate. **Information:** 928-373-5040 or www.visityuma.com

13 La Frontera International Mariachi Conference

April 24-28 Tucson

The award-winning La Frontera Tucson International Mariachi Conference is Tucson's largest cultural event and includes a week of workshops followed by performances of the world's best and brightest mariachi musicians and talented folklorico dancers. **Information:** www.visittucson.org

14 Pine-Strawberry Arts & Crafts Festivals

May 26-27, June 30-July 1, September 3-4 Pine-Strawberry

With so much going on at this 32nd annual festival, it's difficult to know just where to start. In fact, the array of arts and crafts is so wide, varying from stained glass and

jewelry to greeting cards and the Pine-Strawberry Quilters' quilts, you'll likely need to attend all three weekends in order to comb through all of the great stuff. Admission is free. **Information:** 928-476-6537 or www.pinestrawhs.org/events

15 Prescott Rodeo

June 28-July 4 Prescott

This year marks not only Arizona's 100th birthday, but also the 125th birthday of the World's Oldest Rodeo in Prescott. For an entire week, Prescott will be teeming with cowboys and cowgirls ready to show off their roping skills, bucking skills, and every other horse or cattle skill imaginable. The competition will be fierce, so mark your calendars for a wild party — one that commemorates the history of the rodeo and the independence of our country. **Information:** www.worldsoldestrodeo.com

16 Hopi Festival of Arts & Culture

June 30-July 1 Flagstaff

Immerse yourself in the world of the Hopis at this 79th annual event. The Hopi Festival of Arts & Culture is an opportunity to experience the rich culture and traditions of the Hopi people. For two days, explore the works of carvers, painters, jewelers, potters, quilters, and basket- and textile-weavers. Enjoy storytelling, music and dancing, plus taste Hopi bread and piki. Visitors will

also have an opportunity to learn how the Hopis are preserving their language and architectural traditions. **Information:** 928-774-5213 or www.musnaz.org

17 Birding & Nature Festival

August 1-4 Sierra Vista

Now in its 21st year, Southwest Wings is again celebrating the wondrous diversity of Arizona's wildlife: birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. In addition to the welcoming reception, movie night and a keynote speaker, Southwest Wings will be offering 40 field trips throughout Southeastern Arizona, including overnight trips into the Chiricahua Mountains and Madera Canyon — both are exceptional opportunities to spend some quality time with nationally known bird guides in these unique environments. **Information:** www.swwings.org

18 River Regatta

August 11 Bullhead City

This is a huge party that seems to get bigger and bigger each year. Last August, more than 25,000 people flocked to the Colorado River to float 8 miles in the hot Arizona sun, and similar crowds are expected this year. Although this is a family friendly event, there are plenty of adult-only festivities going on, including a beer pong tournament, kayak racing and more. **Information:** 928-763-0158 or www.bullheadregatta.com

19 Payson Rodeo

August 17-19 Payson

Designated an official Arizona Centennial Event, the 127th Annual World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo in Payson features plenty of good old-fashioned rodeo action. And even though the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association calls this event the country's "Best Small Rodeo," it certainly doesn't feel small, thanks to the many dedicated cowboys and cowgirls who put on an amazing show that includes bull-riding, steer-wrestling, bronc-riding and specialty acts, all of which are vying for \$50,000 in prize money. **Information:** 877-840-0457 or www.paysonrimcountry.com/activities



Safford's Salsa Fest is open to all entrants, including firefighters from nearby Thatcher. | JEFF KIDA

20 Red Rocks Music Festival

August 25-September 2 Sedona

The 11th Annual Red Rocks Music Festival will usher in the fall season with orchestral performances and world-class chamber music, as well as classes and workshops. **Information:** 928-282-4838 or www.redrocksmusicfestival.com

21 Navajo Nation Fair

September (call for dates) Window Rock

"The World's Largest Indian Fair" is celebrating its 66th year, and visitors to this cultural extravaganza can expect excitement for the entire family. With plenty of food, a frybread competition, art, dancing, cultural performances and more, there's certainly something for every fairgoer, including carnival rides and an Indian rodeo. In addition, big-name country stars and local bands will be taking the stage throughout the day. The fair kicks off with a huge parade. **Information:** 928-871-6642 or www.navajonationfair.com

22 Grand Canyon Celebration of Art

September 8-November 25 Grand Canyon

Art and nature will collide at the fourth Annual Grand Canyon Celebration of Art, which showcases more than 30 artists from

around the country. The focus of this event is the open-air competition and exhibition of each artist's work, which is created en plein-air on both the North Rim and the South Rim of the Canyon. When it comes to art shows, this is second-to-none. **Information:** 928-863-3877 or www.grandcanyon.org/celebration.asp

23 Salsa Fest

September 28-29 Safford

The Safford Salsa Fest isn't just any old salsa fest. It features some of the finest salsa in Arizona. Besides giving your taste buds a real kick, this festival also includes dance performances, chihuahua races, costume contests and a jalapeño-eating contest. This free, family friendly event is held in Safford's town square and is sure to ramp up the heat. **Information:** 888-837-1841 or www.salsatrail.com

24 Bisbee 1000

October 20 Bisbee

Think you've got what it takes to participate in this heart-pumping event? The 22nd annual Bisbee 1000 challenges participants to run, walk or do whatever it takes to cover a little more than 4 miles of stairs, which wind through the hills and back roads of Bisbee. Musicians line certain points of the trail, offering encouragement and a musical interlude. This is a must-do for those seeking out-of-the-ordinary athletic events. **Information:** 520-266-0401 or www.bisbee1000.org

25 Festival of Lights


December 8 Sedona

Every year, the Tlaquepaque Arts & Crafts Village and the Sedona Marine Corps decorate the village grounds with 6,000 luminarias in celebration of the holiday season. The 35th annual event also will feature musical performances by several musicians and singers, including the River of Life Tabernacle choir. **Information:** 928-282-4838 or www.tlaq.com ■



For more great events around Arizona, scan this QR code with your smart phone or visit www.arizonahighways.com/extras/events.asp.



A photograph of five sandhill cranes in flight against a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise. The cranes are silhouetted against the bright, orange and yellow light of the low sun, which is partially obscured by soft, white clouds. The cranes are in various stages of flight, with their long legs trailing behind and their wings spread wide, showing the intricate structure of the feathers. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

A flight of sandhill cranes — en route to their winter roosting site — executes a close formation in the evening light.

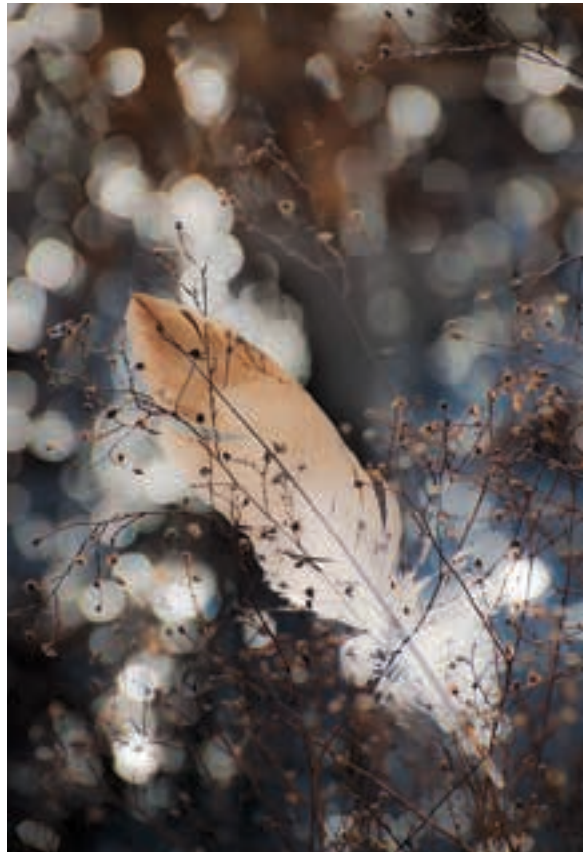
Coming In for a Landing

Every January, bird-watchers, random travelers and Arizona Highways photographers gather in Sulphur Springs Valley for the daily liftoffs and landings of sandhill cranes. It's one of the great spectacles in Mother Nature. How else would you describe 40,000 cranes with 6-foot wingspans landing en masse on the marshes of Southeastern Arizona?

A PORTFOLIO BY JACK DYKINGA

Sunrise over the Dagoon Mountains prompts thousands of sandhill cranes to fly from their roosting areas to feeding fields in the Sulphur Springs Valley.





ABOVE: A feather from a sandhill crane creates a natural art form.
RIGHT: The cranes are winter visitors to Arizona and other Southwestern locations, typically between September and March.



Sandhill cranes are among North America's largest birds—adults stand up to 6 feet tall — and they will fly as many as 100 miles per day in search of food.



Mark Your Calendar
The 19th Annual Wings Over Willcox Birding & Nature Festival takes place January 11-15, 2012. For more information, call 800-200-2272 or visit www.wingsoverwillcox.com. ■



COLT OF LIGHTNING

A TRUE STORY ABOUT A CHAMPION RACEHORSE NAMED SHORTY,
AN EASTERN ARIZONA RANCH KNOWN AS HIGH LONESOME, AND A
14-YEAR-OLD BOY WHO LEARNED TO FLY ON A SUMMER DAY IN 1944.

AN ESSAY BY J.P.S. BROWN
ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRAD HOLLAND

I tell people that cowboys can fly, so I'll try to explain how that is. I grew up at an altitude of 7,000 feet on an outfit called the High Lonesome between St. Johns and Sanders, Arizona. In the spring of 1944, when I turned 14, my Pappy bought 100 quarter horse colts from Buck Pyle of Sanderson, Texas, and brought them home for us to break. We bought 100 of those colts and brought them home to the High Lonesome every year for 13 years. They were the grandsons and great-grandsons of the great Foundation Quarter Horse studs Peter McCue, Midnight, Joe Bailey, Chaparroso and Dan Waggoner. Shorty was sired by Herman Hughes, a son or grandson of Dan Waggoner.

They were branded an "O" on the jaw and all were short, strong-boned and well muscled. A brown colt we called Shorty that I broke out of the first crop was the best all-around horse the High Lonesome ever knew. Most of those "O" horses were blue and red roans and grays at birth, but Shorty didn't dapple and turn blue-gray until he was about 7.

He could have bucked off anyone in the world, because he had the power and quickness, but he never bucked a jump. He didn't even think of it, and that made me awful happy. I've always suffered from a bad case of the round-ass. My Pappy decided to keep him the first day I rode him. He went on and learned everything I tried to teach him about three steps before I even thought to show it to him. That first summer, I was able to use him to work cattle with the mature horses in my string.

My Pappy was not one to baby a horse, or wait on him. Most cowmen start their colts by first teaching them how to turn back cattle. They're easier to gentle as they learn to outwit and outperform a cow. They don't rope off a colt until he's become so good at turning cattle back that he does it with no signal from his rider. A cutting horse has to keep his distance and leverage on a cow when he needs to turn her back. He stays back and keeps a good margin of ground between himself and the cow so she can't get around him and make it to the wide-open spaces.

A rope horse chases a cow and runs right up as close as he can get, follows and rates her to give his rider a throw. Because of that, most cowmen want their colts to know how to turn one back before he learns to chase one. Once a colt learns what he has to do to keep the prize on a cow that's trying to get by him, he never forgets it, but if the horse is used to chase cattle and rope them before he's taught to turn them back, he's usually never as good a cow horse as he could have been.

My Pappy didn't give a darn about any of that. He wanted to see what a colt could do as quick as he could. He kept asking me when I was going to rope off Shorty. I stalled. I wanted him first to learn to look at cattle and keep his distance. Pappy wanted to see if a cow could outrun him. He wanted to see how he acted tied to one. I stalled.

The Mormon Day Rodeo in St. Johns on the 24th of July was about to happen, and Pappy wanted me to train Shorty to rope calves so he could be used in the show. I stalled. The colt was only 2 and took on new responsibilities faster than normal as it was. Nevertheless, when it came time to trailer our horses to the rodeo, we loaded Shorty in the back of the pickup, and loaded our rope horses — Sorrel Top and Baldy — in the trailer and pulled out for St. Johns. Shorty had only been hauled once, in the boxcar from Sanderson to Arizona, but he stood up with his head over the cab like General Douglas MacArthur in a ticker-tape parade.

He slept tied to the trailer all through two days of the rodeo. Once, I reminded Pappy that the colt was going to sprout roots by that trailer, and wondered why he left Shorty there. He said hauling and standing still was good training for a colt. To be near the crowds and traffic of the rodeo was also good for a horse that would become as famous as Shorty. I didn't think those were good reasons, but I shut up. It sure didn't bother Shorty to stand and sleep. Every once in a while I went over and brushed the flies off his eyes and gave him water and a moral full of oats. He'd look up at his surroundings then, but most of the time he stood shot-hipped and slept like an old, worn-out geezer.

The High Lonesome is grass country with hardly any browse at all. Our colts had not filled out much. That year, spring moisture had been sparse, our stock fed on last year's crop of dry grass, and that summer's green grass was yet to come. All our colts looked stunted and hard up.

Shorty looked like a waif who had no mother, no father and never been to school. He looked like *The Grapes of Wrath*. Nobody at the rodeo came around to admire him. His ribs showed, but if anyone had looked closely at his legs, neck, barrel and gaskin, they would have been surprised at the size and tone of the muscle. Nobody did, because he'd been ridden almost every day for seven weeks, and was not a horse that anybody would want to show off and prance in a parade.

After the last event of the last day of the rodeo, my Pappy called for me to put my little sister Sharon's saddle on Shorty, warm him up and take him to the arena. I saddled, mounted and looked for my sister. I thought Pappy wanted her to show him off. He was certainly gentle enough for her to ride. Before I found her, Pappy came a-flyin' out of the arena on Sorrel Top and shouted for me to hurry up and follow him. He then began to instruct me on how to ride Shorty in the Cow Pony Race. I'd expected to ride in the Cow Pony Race about as much as I expected to ride in a three-legged race, but I jumped down and tightened Shorty's cinches and got ready.

"When that starter hollers 'Go,' you lay over that colt's neck and scream in his ears," Pappy said. That's something he always did, before a race. "I want you to make him think you're a catamount who wants to eat his very liver." He always said that, too.

In the arena, Shorty looked around as though everything was mildly interesting here in the town, what with all the other horses, people in the grandstand, band music that blared over the arena loud-speaker, people hollering and milling and horses prancing. He looked around, but kept a dutiful eye on me to see what I wanted to do.

When I rode him into the horde of 30 other horses behind the starting line, he accommodated himself and calmly looked straight ahead. A whole gang of horses stood between us and the starting line. The entry fee was \$5 and first place paid \$50, which I sure wanted to win, but I didn't think we had much chance to get through all those other horses and be first to the finish line.

The starting line lay in front of the stock pens at the bottom of the arena, and the finish line was only a hundred yards away beside the bucking chutes. Beyond the finish line, I could see wide-open spaces all the way to the High Lonesome, so at least we were headed in the right direction for our first horse race. Shorty might run better if he was a little homesick and discovered all of a sudden that I wanted him to hurry home, but then I realized that he'd never been run toward

home in his life. Besides that, I didn't think he even knew how to run all out. I'd never had him full throttle. He'd always been held in check, because the only time I'd ever hurried him had been to get around cattle to turn, stop and hold them.

That was me at 14 and Shorty at 2, or 14 in horse years. We looked way off and wondered about homesickness and how fast we could run if we had to go all out, instead of locating the starter in our first run for the money.

Then I noticed a man ride purposefully around the edge of the arena, raise his arm with a red flag in hand, drop it and holler, "Go."

Shorty and I were stunned. We stood flatfooted and paralyzed and watched everybody else bound away. Only I knew what "Go" meant and I'd been asleep. "Go" only woke us both up.

I didn't have a quirt, or a bat, but Shorty and I had spent many hours on the go for the past six weeks. He might not have known what "Go" meant when a Mormon Bishop hollered it, but he darned sure didn't need to hear it when I wanted to go. I leaned over to start him and in two jumps he was back inside the horde. I laid over his neck and screamed in his ear and we seared that mob open and passed through it as cleanly as a bolt of lightning, then left it behind by three lengths going away at the finish line.

I'd never been on a horse with that much explosive power. My work had me going full out on fast, mature horses all the time. The top horse in my string that year was a spayed mare we called Mae West, a granddaughter of Man O' War, and she could run a hole in the wind, but her best performance was not anything like Shorty's. Shorty had swelled up like a bomb, then instead of blowing up he used his power as a jet, ran as though his feet didn't touch the ground, and shot through that horde like a torpedo. Other horses thundered with their hooves and could make way fast enough for any cowboy. Shorty ran with the speed of thought. He thought he wanted to be done with those other horses, so he slipped away into another world, way over on the other side of them. He left them in a pile three lengths of daylight behind his tail.

He pulled up and settled down when I stood up and spoke to him. I walked him awhile, but he was not hot or excited. He breathed a little faster after the race, but he didn't make a wind tunnel of his nostrils and turn his eyes inside out the way the other horses did. Anyone would have thought those other horses had really done something by the way they pranced around and sounded tough. Not Shorty. The race over, anyone would have thought he was my little sister Sharon's pet, a horse that had been tied to a tree on the sideline and had been mildly startled when he looked up and saw a Cow Pony Race go by.

Pappy caught up to me and said, "Where were you and Shorty when the race started, son?"

"About three lengths behind the line," I said. "The way everybody bunched together, I didn't think we'd start for another hour. We might as well have been asleep in Show Low."

"You would have won it if you'd started in Show Low."

That winter, Pappy put Shorty in training at Rillito Downs in Tucson with an old-timer from New Mexico named Dean Johnson. Dean slept in the stall with Shorty and he won every race he entered. We brought him home the next summer and I punched cows on him and roped on him at our camp at G-Lake. We had a two-acre waterlot there and invited our neighbors, the Jarvises, to ride over and practice on big Mexican steers with us. The Jarvises also had us over to their headquarters at Witch Wells to rope calves. I only roped steers on Shorty. Darrel and Earl Jarvis started him roping calves. They were unerring headers and quick on the ground and better calf ropers than



anybody else in that country, where a lot of good ropers were made.

The next June, Pappy decided he wanted Shorty to show us what he could really do, so he went to Durango, Colorado, and matched him against that year's AQHA World Champion Stud, a horse called B-Day. I can't swear to the year, but I remember the horse. Besides the main bet, Pappy stuffed the glove compartment of our pickup with \$3,000 in \$10 bills and we put it all down on side bets.

Dean Johnson trained Shorty at our G-Lake camp on the High Lonesome. A jockey from El Paso named Red Hardy rode him. Shorty didn't care that B-Day was World Champion. He outran him, not as far as you could throw a rock, but enough to make him pay.

My cousin Buckshot Sorrells won five All-Around buckles at Cheyenne that next year, two on Shorty. John Clem of Arizona and his son won separate RCA team-roping championships, and John's daughter won a world GRA championship on him. Buckshot bulldogged, roped calves and roped steers on him.

If anybody can't see how a cowboy flew that day at St. Johns, I haven't written this well enough. In my 80 years, I've flown every day I cowboied. However, the vehicles have differed. That day I rode Shorty shot me up to a high perch in the sky. I screamed in a dive, hummed in a swoop that fanned the ground, climbed back into the sky, then soared so high again that I forgot I'd have to walk to supper. Our mother did not like us to run full out to supper. ■



HAYDUKE LIVES **ON**

It's been almost 40 years since *The Monkey Wrench Gang* hit bookstores, but the man who inspired Edward Abbey's protagonist is still working out the legacies of being Hayduke. He's also trying to save what's left of the wilderness.

BY KATHY MONTGOMERY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOTT BAXTER

Doug Peacock, who helped bury his friend Edward Abbey in the Arizona desert in 1989, surveys his Montana property, with the Absaroka Range and Yellowstone River (not visible) in the background.

DOUg PEACOCK HAS SPENT decades observing and defending grizzly bears. He's published four books, filmed an award-winning documentary, co-founded a conservation group, married, divorced and married again, raised two children and landed a Guggenheim Fellowship. Yet, in spite of all his accomplishments, some will always remember him as Hayduke.

Edward Abbey called George Washington Hayduke the hero of his novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang*. A beer-guzzling, former Green Beret medic "of much wrath and little brain," Hayduke wandered the Southwest in a Jeep armed with a small arsenal. Along with a band of like-minded souls, Hayduke plagued developers with escalating acts of sabotage.

The book brought Peacock instant celebrity, but he didn't find it flattering.

"Hayduke was a one-dimensional dolt," Peacock wrote in his essay *Chasing Abbey*. And the character's resemblance to Peacock strained a difficult friendship. But his relationship with Abbey endured and ultimately shaped the course of Peacock's life.

Peacock first came to Arizona in 1963, by Jeep, fleeing the cold of an Ann Arbor, Michigan, winter. He found work in construction, then as a low-level geologist at the ASARCO mine in Sahuarita.

Like the character he inspired, Peacock was a Green Beret medic in Vietnam, field-trained in demolition. His last day in Quang Ngai Province was the day of the My Lai massacre. Though he didn't know it at the time, he believes he flew over My Lai as the bloodbath was under way.

Peacock, like Hayduke, returned from the war to find Tucson changed. Trying to shake off the effects of the war, he headed for wilder country and eventually found his way to the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park. There, a chance

encounter with a family of bears proved a tonic and ignited a lifelong obsession with grizzlies. He returned to Tucson that winter, beginning a seasonal migration between Montana and Arizona that he's made ever since.

Not long after Peacock returned to Arizona, he met Abbey at a friend's house. It was a cold night and he arrived to the gathering by motorcycle.

"I smoked cigarettes and had a little baggie of Bugler tobacco," Peacock recalls. "I tried to roll a cigarette, but my hands were shaking from the cold. This guy reached over and gave me a light. It was Ed Abbey."

Abbey was working as a seasonal ranger at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and invited Peacock to visit. He did, and so began a friendship that lasted 20 years.

Peacock writes about those days in his book *Walking It Off*. In a chapter titled "Origins," a nod to Abbey's book, he writes: "We started taking out billboards and bulldozers, and plotting against strip mines, dams, copper smelters and logging operations."

At the time he thought it was "simply something to do; a raised fist against the blind greed of technology."

Later, he realized it was research for the book Abbey was writing.

By the time *The Monkey Wrench Gang* came out in 1975, Peacock was immersed in a documentary film project about grizzlies. But the book deeply affected his relationship with Abbey.

"You don't just lift the physical aspects of someone else's life and tuck them into a novel without talking to them about it," Peacock says. "On the other hand, it was OK with me. And I had plenty to do. So the book didn't really change my life at all. My friendship with Abbey certainly did, and the book was part of that."

A letter that the book's publisher urged Abbey to write didn't help.

"You know, about how I should only take the good parts of Duke and forget the dolt-like bad things and stuff like that," Peacock says. "Ed and I were both living in Moab at the time. We took a walk up Mill Creek, stopped at a big rock with petroglyphs on it, and burned the letter. Neither one of us ever spoke about Hayduke or his origins ever again."

Peacock was with Abbey when he died in 1989. Along with a few friends, he buried Abbey (illegally, of course) in the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge on the anniversary of My Lai.

Peacock's first book, *The Grizzly Years*, was released the following year.

"I just had a story to tell and it was pretty easy for me to do," he says. "I actually finished it in 1982. It was the same publisher Ed had. [The publisher] just kind of sat on it. Ed read the book. He read the manuscript and was wonderfully generous and encouraging."

In 1991, Peacock founded Round River Conservation Studies with Dennis Sizemore with the goal of conserving the world's wild places. He still serves as chairman. Peacock's



A variety of mementos from nature and a Hayduke bumper sticker are part of the clutter in Peacock's office.

son Colin, a conservation biologist, leads student trips for Round River. His daughter Laurel works for a sustainability consulting company.

Thanks to a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship, Peacock is now working on his fifth book.

"I was looking at an employment application for a janitor at Walmart on one [hand], and at a ski mask and a plastic pistol and a garbage bag on the other [hand]," Peacock says. "And this guy calls me up and says how'd you like all this money for nothing? It was like Christmas. Or Halloween, even better. That was the freedom I needed. It's allowed me to do what I'm doing now."

Peacock is still working through his experience of Vietnam, a theme that runs through much of his writing. At the time of our interview, he was planning a trip to his former duty station overseas.

"We betrayed those people," he says. "It was a collective betrayal, but I feel it personally and I've got to go back and face that."

"I never quite look at my life as healing from that kind of experience," he adds. "And it's all right because it has empowered me to live the warrior's life as per Edward Abbey. I still struggle with my ghosts. But I would not change a thing about

Peacock was with Abbey when he died in 1989. Along with a few friends, he buried Abbey (illegally, of course) in the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

that part of my life."

In *Walking It Off*, Peacock tries to come to terms with the twin forces of Abbey and Vietnam, which seemed to become intertwined.

"From the skeleton of this man, Ed created the fictional Hayduke," he wrote. "The trouble was that, unlike Hayduke, the real man was not content to stay out in the cold; he wanted to cross back over into the human realm."

Now, as all the elements of his life come together, Peacock says it all basically comes back to Abbey.

"I was a difficult friend and he could be a real grouch," Peacock says. "But the glue of our friendship was our love for the wild. If anything, the friendship has deepened because I realize how important he was and still is. I'm right there with Ed Abbey after all these years. Still fighting for the same thing." ■



Edward Abbey's smile stands out on Doug Peacock's home-office shelf.



LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION.

Their home on the South Rim is on the National Register of Historic Places, their names are synonymous with the Grand Canyon, and 100 years ago this month, the Kolb Brothers com-

pleted an epic journey down the Colorado River, retracing the route of John Wesley Powell. Like Powell, they experienced an incredible adventure. Unlike Powell, they took a 50-pound, hand-cranked motion-picture camera along for the ride.

—*—
BY KELLY KRAMER

PHOTO RESEARCH BY MOLLY SMITH

Given the chance to author a book, most people would dedicate it to their children, their parents or another of particular significance. When Emery Kolb transcribed the dedication page for his book, *Through the Grand Canyon From Wyoming to Mexico*, he offered it to “the many friends who ‘pulled’ for us, if not with us, during the one hundred one days of our river trip.”

The “us” was the author and his brother, Ellsworth. The “river trip” was the roughly 1,100-mile-long re-creation of John Wesley Powell’s expedition along the Green and Colorado rivers from Green River, Wyoming, through the Grand Canyon. And all

of that pulling ... well, that went a long way.

The Kolb Brothers weren't the first people to journey through the Grand Canyon on the Colorado River. That distinction likely belongs to the ancient natives who might have cast primitive rafts into its waters long before Francisco Vásquez de Coronado, García López de Cárdenas and John Wesley Powell led expeditions into the geologic wonder. And long before the brothers launched the *Edith* and the *Defiance* at Green River.

In October 1911, the Kolbs set out to duplicate Powell's epic adventure. By mid-January 1912, they'd completed the journey, and although they'd followed in the wake of explorers before them, they pioneered the motion-picture documentation of Arizona's most iconic landmark.

"The Kolbs were looking for a way to promote their business — the Grand Canyon's Kolb Studio — and a motion picture of the Canyon had never been done before, except perhaps for some brief flat-water stretches," says Richard Quartaroli, former special collections librarian at Cline Library at Northern Arizona University. "The first footage of the Colorado River is really their claim to fame."



ALTHOUGH THE KOLBS' motion picture of the Grand Canyon was groundbreaking, it wasn't easy to pull together. Frequent wrecks, floods, hunger and rockslides were only some of the challenges the brothers faced during the journey.

As Emery Kolb narrates: "We employed eight men for the journey, and, one by one, they all backed out, excepting one. ... Men had become insane when they attempted the voyage — during the hardships. It's not unusual to see men lose their nerve. With the women, it's always fear, but with the men, it's always heart trouble."

The 44-minute-long film, produced with a 50-pound hand-cranked motion-picture camera, reveals the Grand Canyon's dangerous landscape in gritty, black-and-white segments.

"We had no assurance that so delicate an apparatus, always difficult to use and regulate, could even survive the journey — much less, in such inexperienced hands as ours, reproduce its wonders," Emery Kolb writes in his book. "But this, nevertheless, was our secret hope, hardly admitted to our most intimate friends — that we could bring out a record of the Colorado as it is, a live thing, armed as it were with teeth, ready to crush and devour."

Crush and devour the river did. On more than one occasion, the brothers found themselves overturned, marooned, cold, hungry, blistered and bruised. Their assistants grew homesick. Clothing was ruined by sediment and mud. The river flooded. Rocks fell, nerves frayed, the roar of the river echoed off the Canyon walls. Still, the brothers persevered.

"Remember, when you view the footage online at Colorado Plateau Archives, [in addition to] dealing with new film equipment — or just film equipment at all — they were undertaking a river trip and all that entails," Quartaroli says. "If they had tagged along with another trip, where they didn't have all the responsibility of conducting the trip itself, filming still would have entailed its own problems and situations. Even today, if you go with a film crew, that can be a real pain,



with what they want to do and how [they want] to do it."

The Kolbs' tenacity also resonates with their descendants, including Emery's grandson, Emery Carl Lehnart. The grandson, who's in his 80s and lives in Montana, has many fond memories of his grandfather and Kolb Studio, where he once had his own room.

"I have a tremendous amount of pride in the fact that my grandfather was a very early photographer," Lehnart says. "He had a considerable amount of film, and when he took that famous trip, he had that hand-cranked motion-picture camera. Anyone that could come up with images from an 8x10 camera and that motion-picture camera ... well, that makes a person rather proud."

At one point in the journey — as the brothers rounded a bend near the Bright Angel Trail — two guides brought news to Emery: His wife had been ill for much of the time they'd been gone, some two months and eight days.

PRECEDING PANEL: Emery and Ellsworth Kolb with their boats, the *Edith* and the *Defiance*, near the Grand Canyon's Shinumo Creek, in late 1911.

ABOVE: Emery Kolb rests in a side canyon's cave during the journey.

BELOW: After a brief respite at Kolb Studio, the Kolb Brothers departed down the Bright Angel Trail on December 19, 1911, to complete their journey down the Colorado River.

BOTTOM: The *Edith* sustained considerable damage during a Christmas Eve wreck, but the brothers were able to repair the gash in her side on Christmas Day, 1911.

"We had received letters from her at every post-office, excepting Lees Ferry, but never a hint that all was not well," the book recounts. "She knew it would break up the trip. 'Pretty good nerve,' we thought."



THE CAMP THE BROTHERS MADE at Bright Angel was the 51st stopping point on the trip, and it enabled them to visit their studio, which was being temporarily managed by their younger brother, Ernest. There they stayed for roughly a month, while Emery tended to his wife, and some of their motion-picture work was processed and returned. The early



ON DISPLAY

Now through September 4, and again from November 30 through September 3, 2013, the Grand Canyon Association will present *A Grand Life at the Grand Canyon: Those Amazing Kolbs!* The brothers' film will run in a loop throughout the exhibition, which takes place at Kolb Studio, on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. For more information, call 928-638-2481 or visit www.grandcanyon.org.



WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE, the brothers' footage and many of the still photographs they made of the Grand Canyon were transformed into "The Grand Canyon Film Show." Emery himself narrated the film for Kolb Studio visitors daily until his death in 1976. To this day, the film holds the title of the longest continuously running movie in U.S. history, and it's being celebrated through a special exhibit at the Grand Canyon — a tribute to the brothers, their adventure and the spectacular motion-picture documentary that resulted.

"Most people could never do [what the Kolbs did] and conduct a river trip at the same time," Quartaroli says. "In fact, most people couldn't conduct a river trip even without filming. The Kolbs didn't have that much river experience. But they sure did when they finished." ■



IRONWOOD FOREST Ragged mountains and some of the oldest trees in Arizona are highlights along this scenic route just north of Tucson.

BY ROGER NAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
RANDY PRENTICE

Tucson is a city interrupted. Mountains encircle the town and keep it contained. Such an arrangement creates a sprawling backyard of raw desert for those with an adventurous spirit. Ironwood Forest National Monument is like that, a quick escape right at the edge of civilization.

The drive begins on Avra Valley Road (Exit 242 off Interstate 10), just north of Tucson in the town of Marana. Head west and you'll soon cross the Santa Cruz River, a vital waterway that drew the first European settlers to Arizona.

Just past Marana Regional Airport, you'll see a turnoff for Saguaro National Park. Don't be tempted to change course — a forest of towering cactuses rises in Ironwood, and seeing them doesn't require an entrance fee.

Rolling on, the route passes cotton fields and then mesquite-dotted rangeland. Just shy of the entrance to the Silver Bell Mine, the pavement ends and the scenic drive turns left onto Silverbell Road. The rough dirt road carves a route through classic Sonoran Desert. Rocky hills crowd the landscape, their slopes thick with ocotillos waving in spindly triumph.

The Sonoran Desert, more than any other American desert, is a study in textures. Paloverde trees and ironwoods throw off a shaggy charm with their haphazard tangle of branches. Chain-fruit chollas maintain an air that's both stately and comical — Dr. Seussian cactuses with swooping limbs capped in furious clusters of pads. Barrel cactuses all seem to adopt a sultry lean. And amid this spiny jungle, saguaros add the dominant vertical notes, growing ramrod

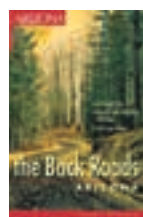
straight and full of purpose.

After 9 miles on Silverbell Road, which includes bouncing in and out of arroyos, a sign indicates that you've entered Ironwood Forest National Monument. Named for one of the longest-living trees in Arizona, the monument protects 129,000 acres of pristine desert and hundreds of ancient Hohokam sites, some dating back to A.D. 600. The scenery within the monument doesn't change drastically, except that Ragged Top Mountain muscles into view. Unlike neighboring mountains with their clean, cactus-lined crests, Ragged Top is a brutish thrust of more than 3,900 feet, crowned by a jumble of sheer cliffs.

At 13.2 miles on Silverbell, you'll encounter a signed junction, which seems a little weird out in the middle of sun-scarred nowhere. Nevertheless, turn right toward Marana. Saguaros are more mature through this section. They're taller, and they display more arms to strike the iconic pose that's come to symbolize the Sonoran Desert. Ragged Top dominates the skyline, scratching at wisps of low clouds.

Another half-dozen miles from the turn takes you back to pavement, amid a neighborhood of homes. It's an abrupt and unwelcome transition. Take solace in the fact that plenty of other adventures await in Tucson's amazing backyard.

Meanwhile, retracing your steps back to Avra Valley Road can be a bit confusing. Save yourself the headache. About 7.5 miles after resuming pavement, Silverbell Road crosses Trico Road. Turn left onto Trico Road, which becomes Trico Marana Road, and follow it for 6 miles back to I-10. Trico Marana Road is Exit 236, which is 6 miles north of Avra Valley Road.



ADDITIONAL READING: For more scenic drives, pick up a copy of our book *The Back Roads*. Now in its fifth edition, the book (\$19.95) features 40 of the state's most scenic drives. To order a copy, visit www.arizonahighways.com/books.



KEVIN KIBSEY

tour guide

Note: Mileages are approximate.

LENGTH: 55 miles round-trip

DIRECTIONS: From Tucson, drive west on Interstate 10 to Avra Valley Road (Exit 242), turn left (west), and continue for 22 miles to Silverbell Road. From there, turn left (west) and continue to Trico Road, which becomes Trico Marana Road. Continue for 6 miles to I-10.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS: A high-clearance vehicle is required on the unpaved section of Silverbell Road.

WARNING: Back-road travel can be hazardous, so be aware of weather and road conditions. Carry plenty of water. Don't travel alone and let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return. Also, keep in mind that smuggling and illegal immigration may be encountered along this route. Visitors to Ironwood Forest National Monument should avoid anyone engaged in suspicious activity.

INFORMATION: Bureau of Land Management, 520-258-7200

511 Travelers in Arizona can visit www.az511.gov or dial 511 to get information on road closures, construction, delays, weather and more. ■



ADDITIONAL READING: For more hikes, pick up a copy of *Arizona Highways Hiking Guide*, which features 52 of the state's best trails — one for each weekend of the year, sorted by seasons. To order a copy, visit www.arizonahighways.com/books.

OPPOSITE PAGE: A hiker pauses along Sedona's Woods Canyon Trail, which runs amid red mesas and sycamore-lined riparian areas.

WOODS CANYON Sedona is famous for its red rocks, but the local topography features more than that, including the lush riparian areas along this trail.

BY ROBERT STIEVE

Unless you're a Tarahumara Indian, extreme trail running is usually ill-advised. Unlike the reclusive super athletes of Mexico's Copper Canyons, the average hiker is in no condition to tackle rugged terrain at breakneck speeds. With the proper training, maybe, but otherwise, you'd be better off blasting your kneecaps with a Louisville Slugger. That said, there are always exceptions, like the Woods Canyon Trail near Sedona.

This well-graded and easy-to-follow trail begins at the south end of the ranger station parking lot on State Route 179. After a few minutes, you'll come to a log that serves as a connecting point to the other side of Dry Beaver Creek, which may or may not have water in it. Despite the moisture level of the creek, the landscape will likely include Herefords, whose orange-red hides match the red dirt of the initial stretch of trail. A few minutes later, you'll come to a gate, beyond which is an old Jeep road. By the time you've closed the gate, the sounds of State Route 179 will have disappeared and the striking mesas ahead will be grabbing your attention, along with the wide-open trail — Tarahumara or not, it's on this stretch that you'll really feel like running.

About 20 minutes later (less time if you decide to run), after having crossed a few small washes, you'll come to a trail register and a larger wash that's home to some beautiful Arizona sycamores and other riparian species. As always, use plenty of

caution when entering wash areas, especially on cloudy days.

Moving along, the trail hugs the wash for a few hundred yards before passing through a cattle gate and a barbed-wire fence. Up ahead you'll see an intersection. The Horse Mesa and Hot Loop trails go left, and the Woods Canyon Trail veers to the right. Five minutes later you'll cross into the Munds Mountain Wilderness Area and catch your first glimpse of red rocks. Unlike some of the more famous trails to the north, this trail isn't dominated by the picturesque geology that epitomizes Sedona. Instead, the highlight is a beautiful riparian area and plenty of solitude. There's not a lot of traffic on this route, but there's no good reason for that. It's a gorgeous trail, especially after about an hour, when the ponderosas and the hardwoods start showing up.

As beautiful as the trees are, the best part of the trail actually begins about a quarter-mile farther, where Rattlesnake Canyon merges with Woods Canyon. At this point, the trail dips into the enormous, boulder-strewn wash of Beaver Creek. Your best photos of the day will be taken from atop one of the Frigidaire-sized rocks in this area. Although the scenery is spectacular, keeping tabs on the trail can be a little tricky. Stay left along the wash and you'll see the trail within a few minutes.

The rest of the route climbs gradually for about 20 minutes and eventually gets to a point where the hike's most prominent red rocks come into view. The rocks mark the end of this hike. At this point, you'll have trekked a little more than 4 miles, with 4 more to go on the way back. For the average hiker, that's a decent day hike. However, if you're feeling adventurous and you have plenty of time, you can extend the hike by boulder-hopping through Woods Canyon all the way to Interstate 17. Although it's not as challenging as running for hundreds of miles in the Copper Canyons of Mexico, it will elevate your stature beyond that of an average hiker. Be careful, though. You're not a Tarahumara.

trail guide

LENGTH: 8.5 miles round-trip

DIFFICULTY: Easy

ELEVATION: 3,905 to 4,165 feet

DIRECTIONS: From Sedona, drive south on State Route 179 for approximately 8.5 miles to the Sedona Ranger Station. The trailhead is at the south end of the parking lot.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS: None

DOGS ALLOWED: Yes (on a leash)

HORSES ALLOWED: Yes

USGS MAPS: Munds Mountain, Sedona

INFORMATION: Red Rock Ranger District, 928-282-4119 or www.fs.usda.gov/coconino

LEAVE-NO-TRACE PRINCIPLES:

- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly and pack out all of your trash.
- Leave what you find.
- Respect wildlife and minimize impact.
- Be considerate of others. ■



KEVIN KIBSEY



where
is this?

Rock Art

BY KATHY RITCHIE
PHOTOGRAPH BY
KERRICK JAMES

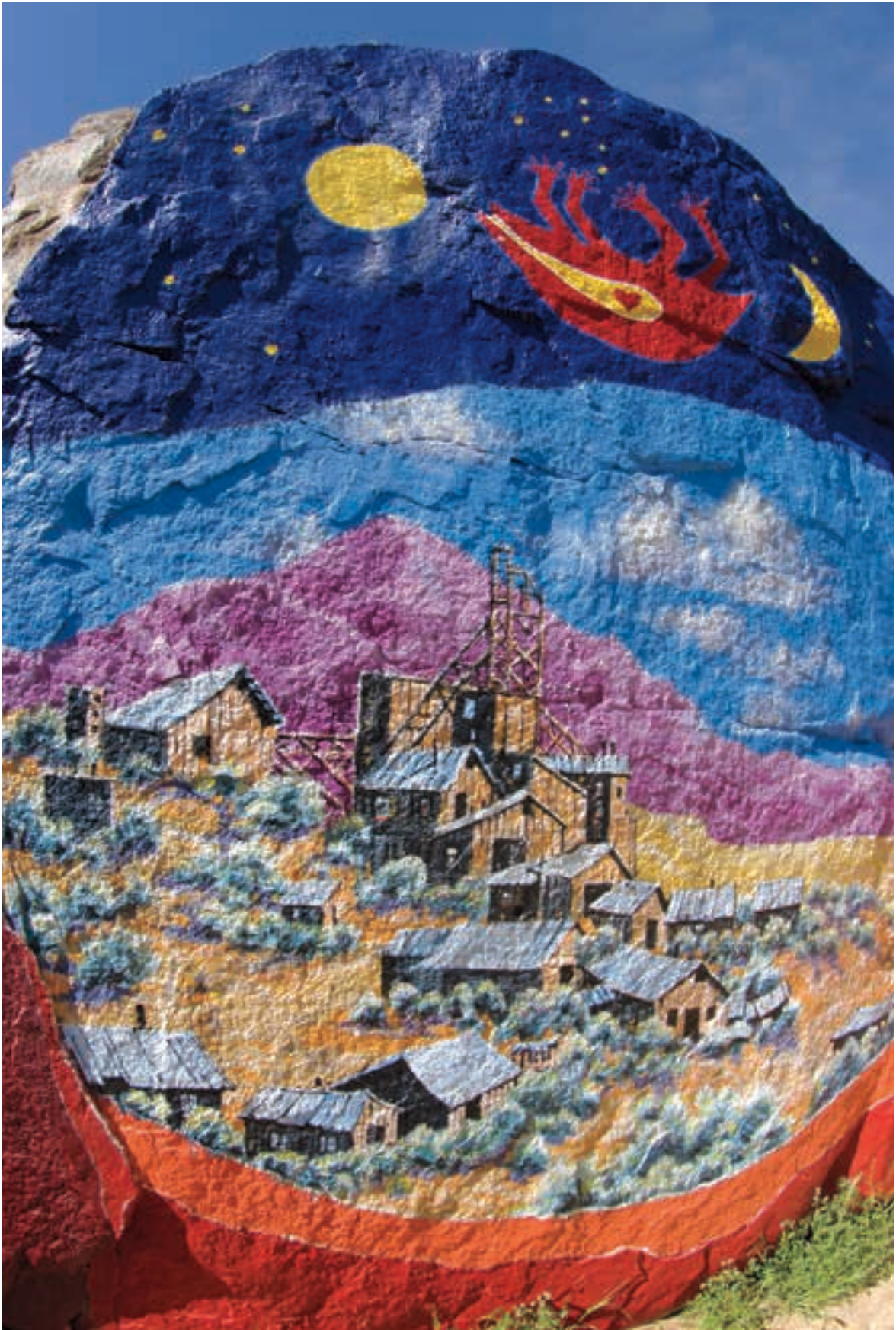
These murals — an example of what happens when you have too much time on your hands — were painted in 1966 by a now-acclaimed artist who, at the time, decided to take a break from his master's program. After embarking on a "journey" to this small town, he literally made his mark, with some of his vibrant murals rising 30 feet high. His work has certainly stood the test of time, making this destination well worth the detour.



October 2011
Answer: Gold King Mine, Jerome.
Congratulations to our winner, Edna Lemmon of Lincoln City, Oregon.



November 2011
Answer: Bedrock City, Valle. Congratulations to our winner, Kelly Callahan of Feasterville, Pennsylvania.



Win a collection of our most popular books! To enter, correctly identify the location featured above and email your answer to editor@arizonahighways.com — type "Where Is This?" in the subject line. Entries can also be sent to 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009 (write "Where Is This?" on the envelope). Please include your name, address and phone number. One winner will be chosen in a random drawing of qualified entries. Entries must be postmarked by January 15, 2012. Only the winner will be notified. The correct answer will be posted in our March issue and online at www.arizonahighways.com beginning February 15.



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